The Smash HITS Collection















FIGURINE PANINI

The Smash HITS Collection

Here it is, The Smash Hits Collection, a 32 page album that builds up into a colossal colour picture library of anyone who's anyone in pop music. That's 144 people in all, each of them with their own colour sticker, and if you flick through the pages you'll find that there's a space reserved for every single one.

Building up the collection is fun and it won't cost you much. Most newsagents are stocking sticker packs. They're 20p each and they all have six assorted pop persons in them, so it shouldn't take you long to collect the whole lot, especially if you swop them with your mates.

And if you've still got a few gaps left, don't worry: just write to *Minicards* and tell them which ones you want. Full details on the inside of the back cover.

Well, what are you waiting for? GET STUCK IN.

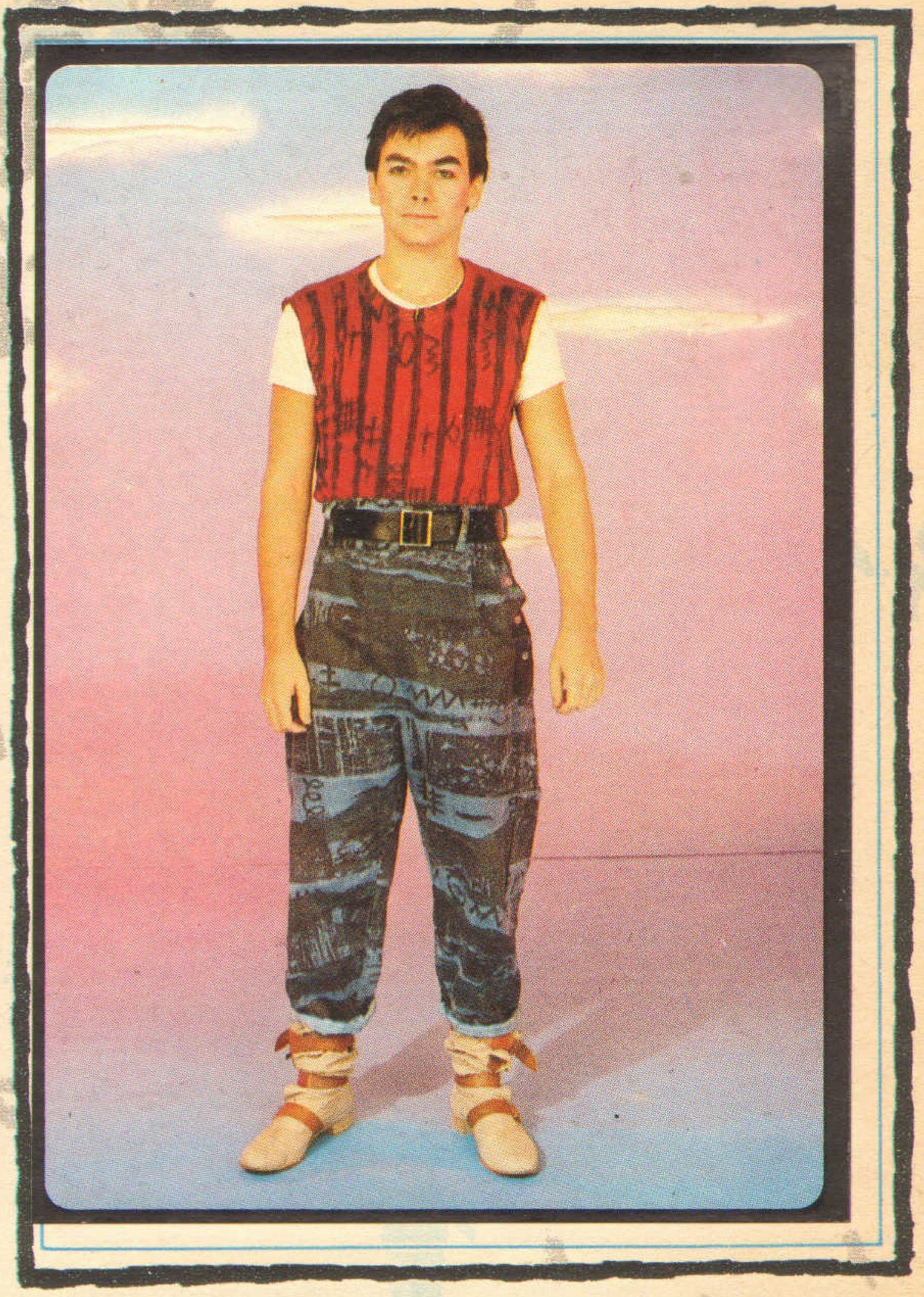
All photos from London Features International, except Madness (29-35) and Tracey Ullman (36) courtesy of Stiff Records; Simple Minds (48-52) by Jamie Morgan; Siouxsie & The Banshees (65-69) courtesy of the Banshees; Mickey Virtue (116) by Paul Rider; and Big Country (141-144) by Paul Cox.

Design Vici MacDonald.
Typeset by Sirron Typesetting, London E.C.1.

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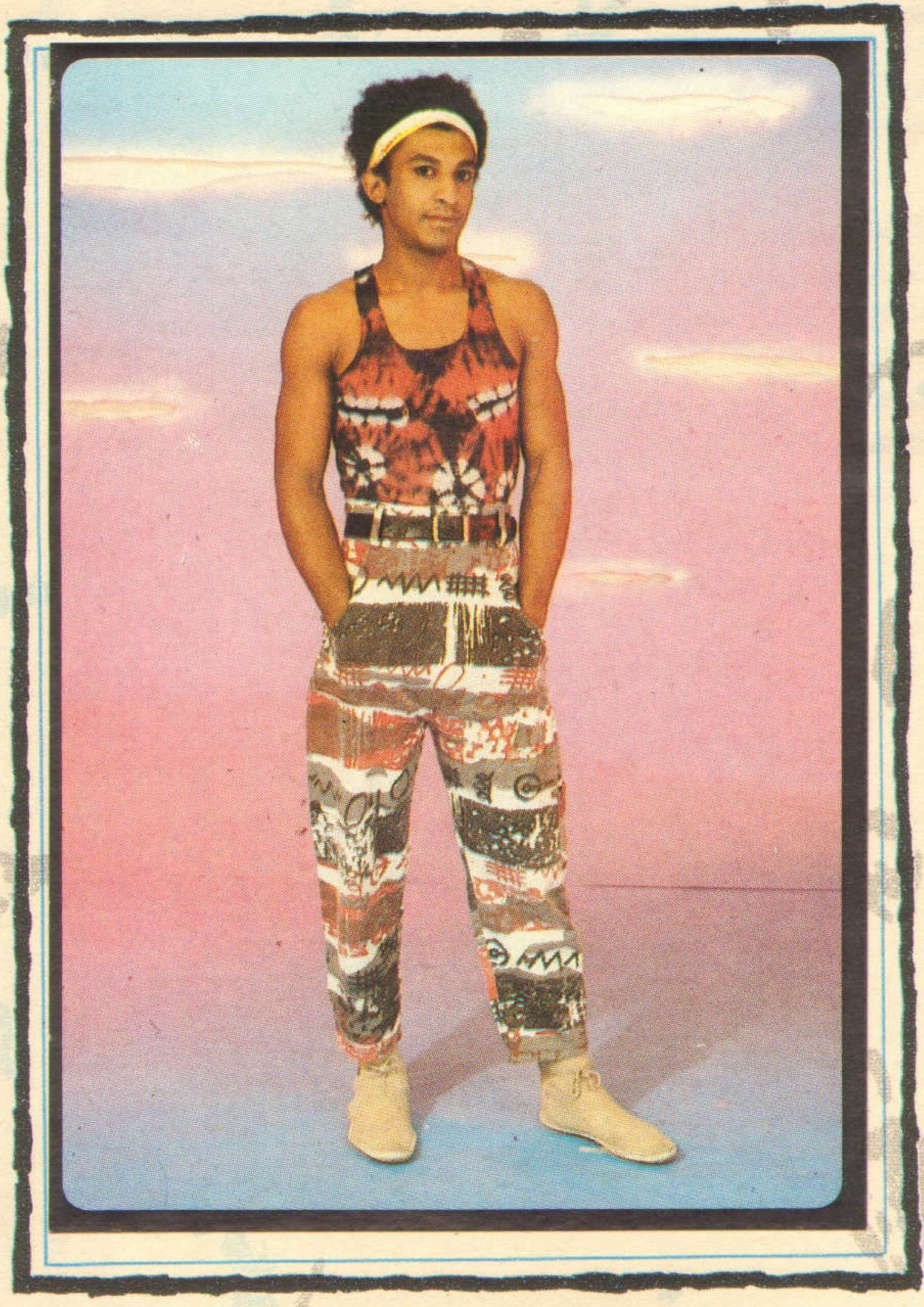
CULTURE CLUB





BOY GEORGE: born George Alan O'Dowd 14/6/61 in South London. Discovered Marc Bolan and expelled from school for refusing cane because of his orange hair and green plastic sandals. Had spells as model, make-up artist and with own clothes shop before forming Culture Club. Warm and generous (and wonderful singer).

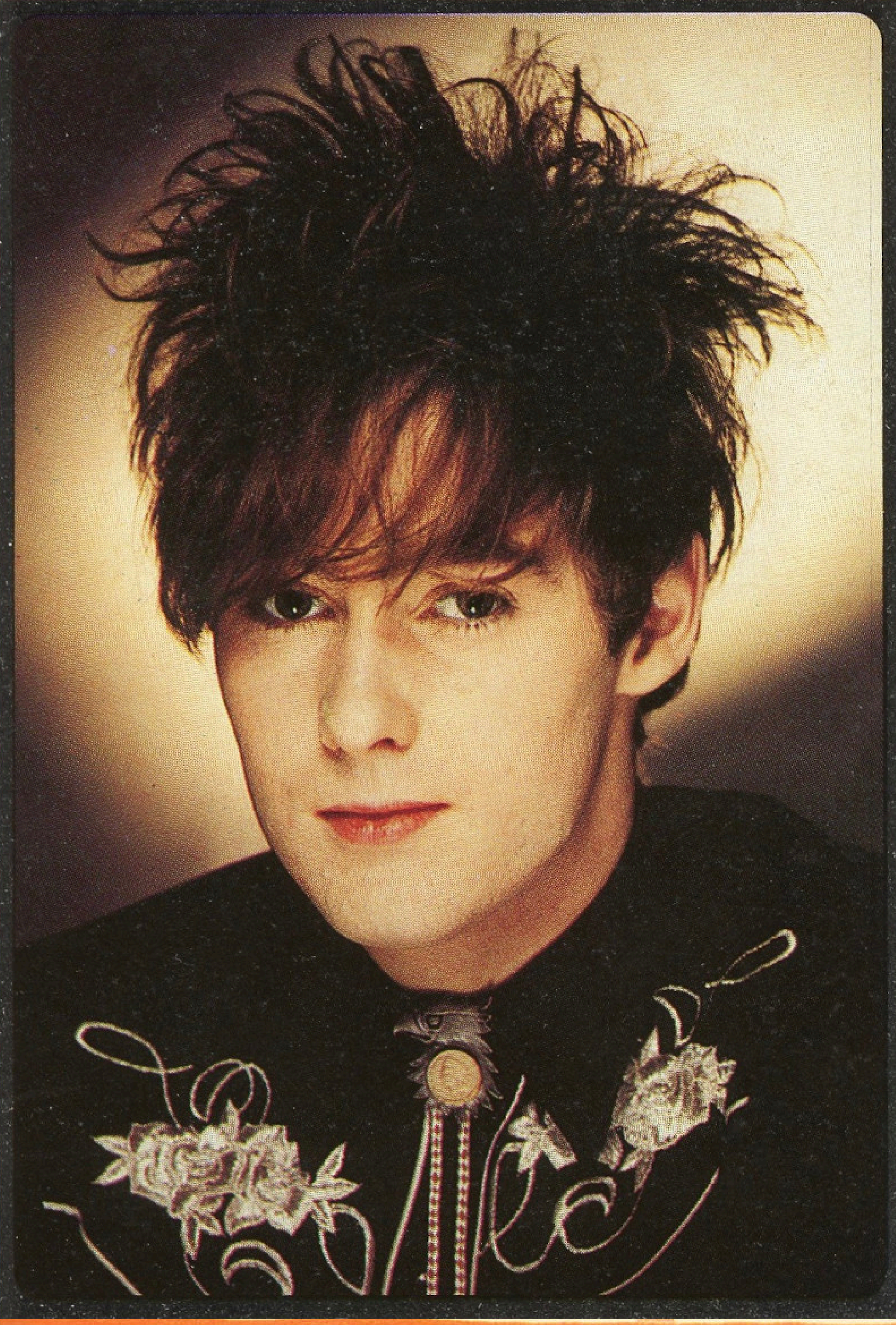
JON MOSS: born 11/9/57 in South London. Academically bright and good schoolboy boxer. Worked briefly in adopted father's clothing store then had various odd jobs before becoming drummer, arriving in Culture Club via The Clash, The Damned and Adam & The Ants. His experience crucial in developing the band.

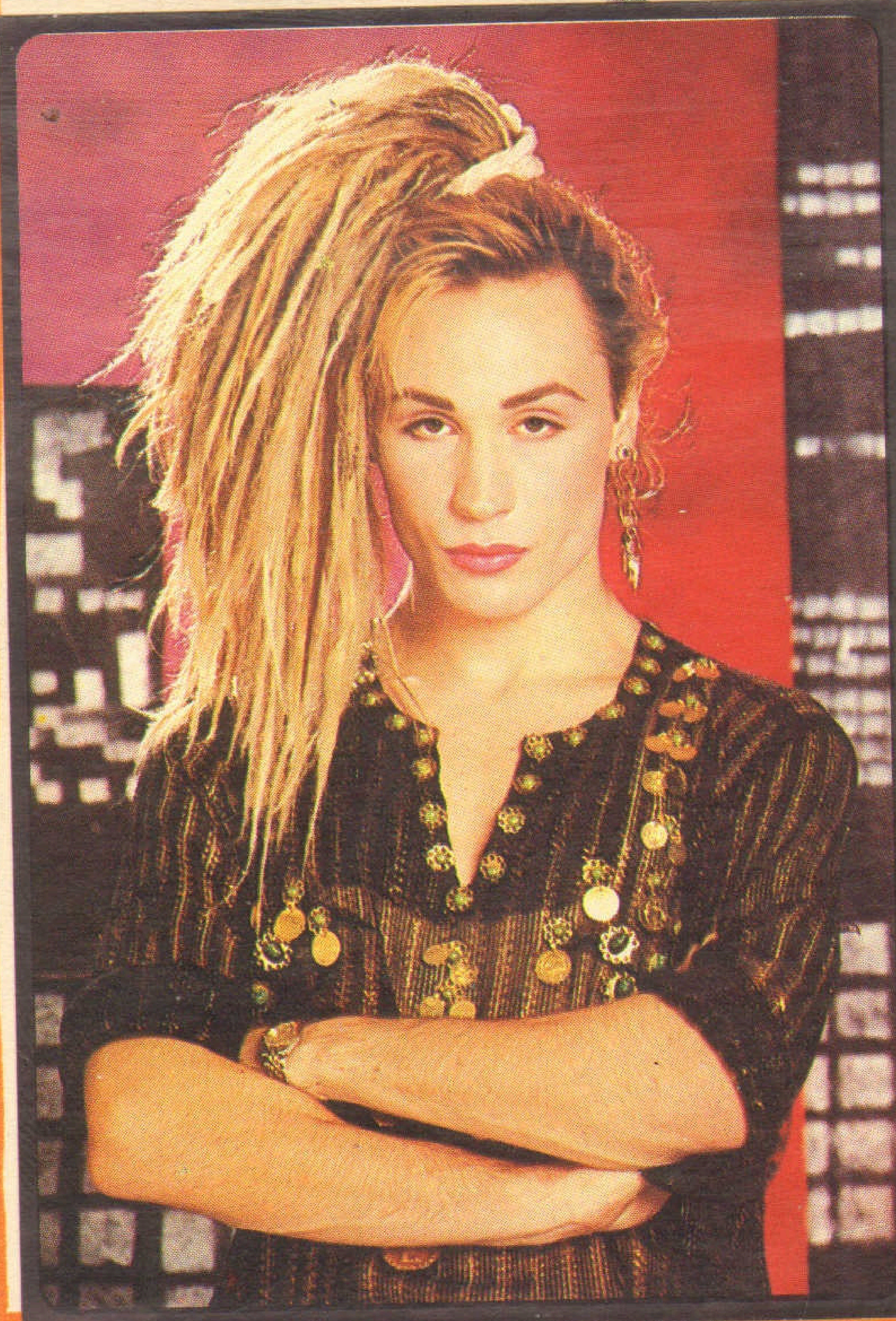


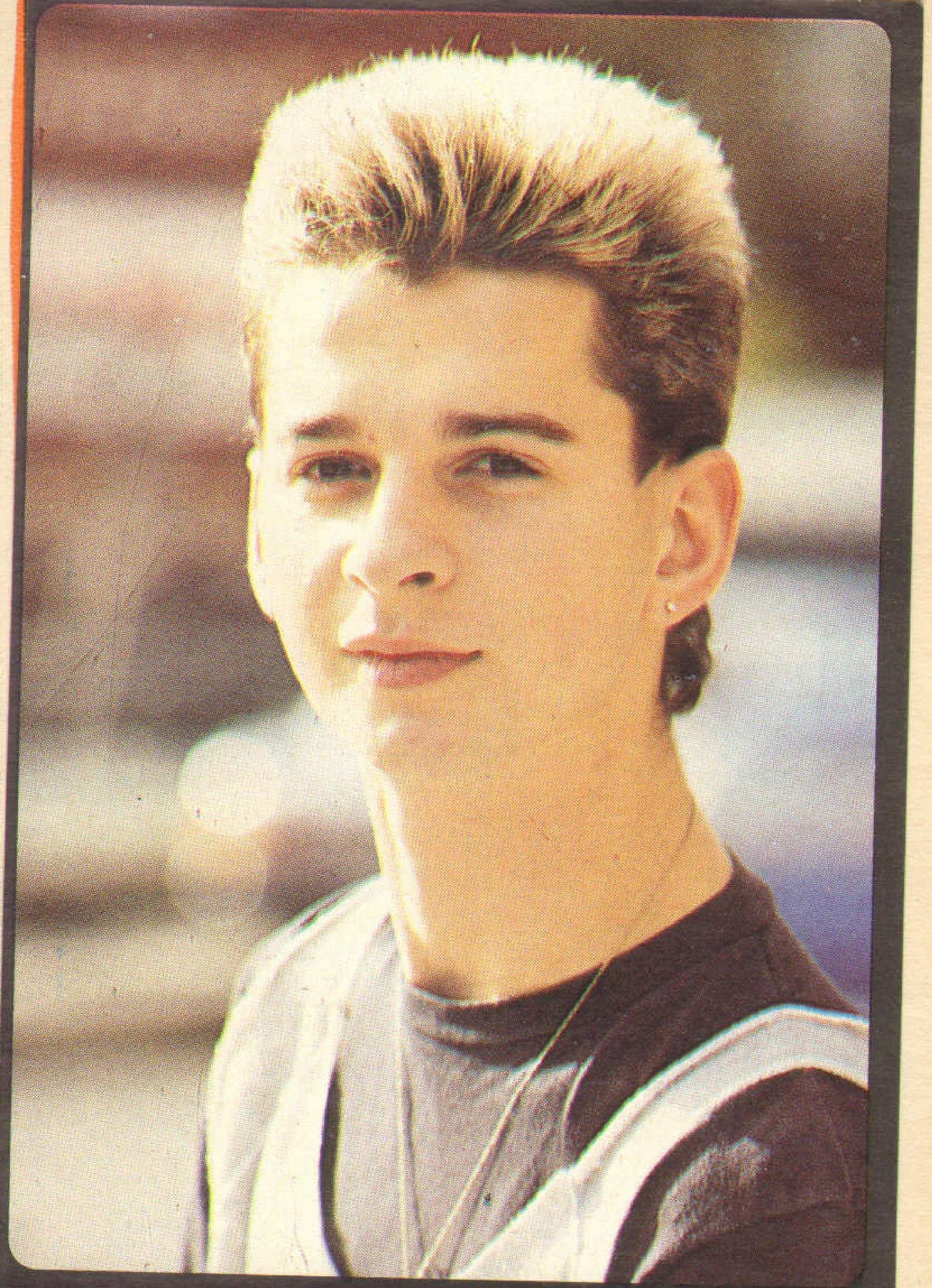


MIKEY CRAIG: born 15/2/60 in West London. Promising schoolboy footballer but turned to dancing and DJing in London clubs. Has two children (Kito and Amber) by wife Cleo. Learned bass by playing along to Bob Marley's "Exodus". Took various odd jobs before approaching George to form Culture Club.

ROY HAY: born 12/8/61 in Southend. Bedroom guitarist, worked in insurance office for three years then became hairdresser. Former colleague put him in touch with George who liked his attitude (willing, into music not fashion – essential to Culture Club's development as band). Married Alison Green 24/12/82.







RODDY FRAME: born 29/1/64 in East Kilbride, near Glasgow. Formed Aztec Camera in 1980 while still at school. Released acclaimed debut LP "High Land Hard Rain" on Rough Trade before moving with long standing bassist Campbell Owens to Warner Bros for hit with "Oblivious". Outstanding songwriter, strong personality.

MARILYN: Born Peter Robinson 3/11/62 in Kingston, Jamaica. Acquired "Marilyn" nickname at school. Noted Blitz nightclubber and worked as model and in clothes shops (some in Hollywood). With aid of Paul Caplan (Haysi Fantazee's manager and writer), had instant hit with "Calling Your Name".

DAVE GAHAN: born 9/5/62. Asked to leave college, worked as window-dresser but never lasted more than a couple of weeks in any job. Joined unknown threesome of Andy Fletcher, Martin Gore and Vince Clarke after singing Bowie's "Heroes" in jam session. Argumentative and a bit of a worrier.

roddy frame
howard jones

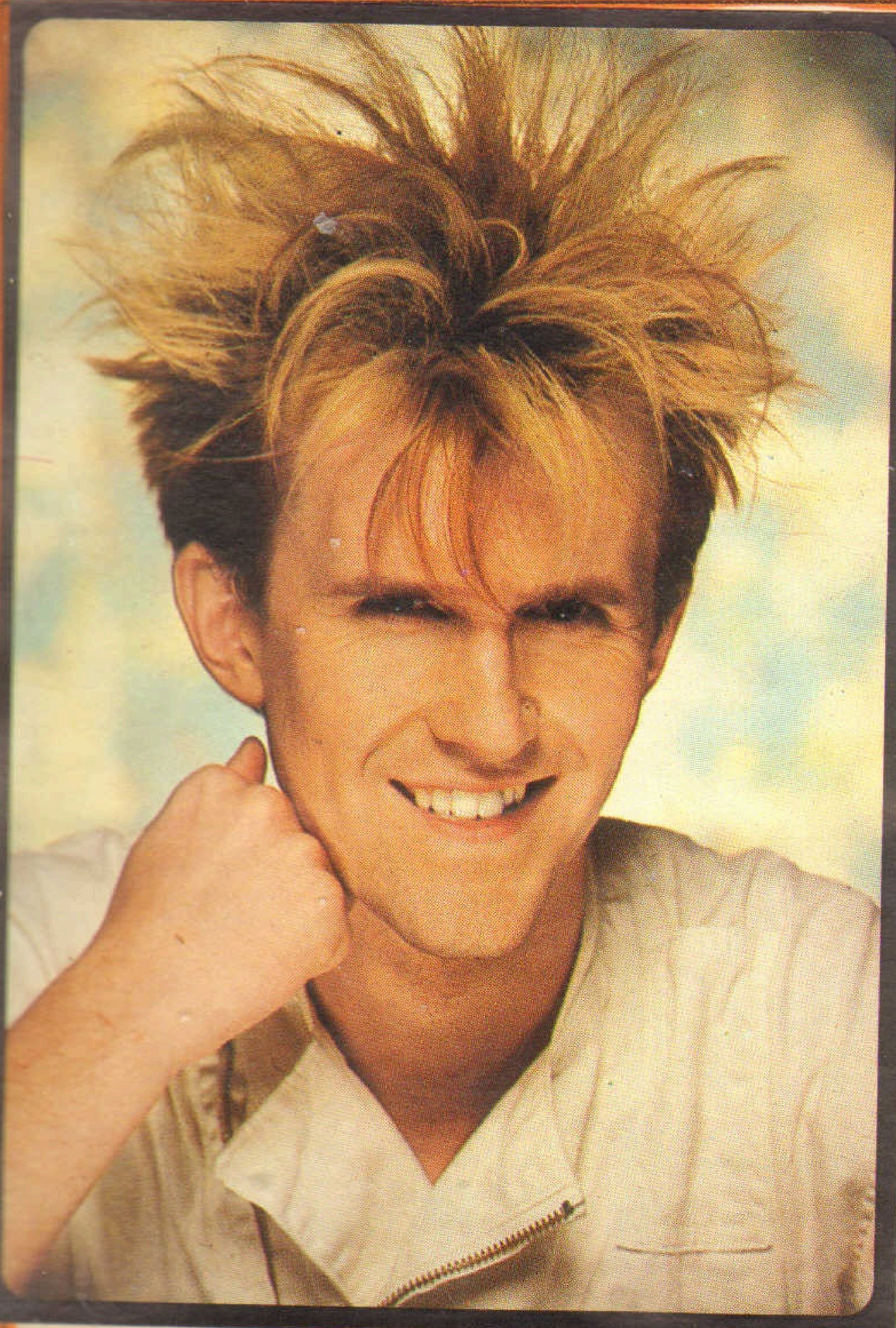
marilyn
limahl

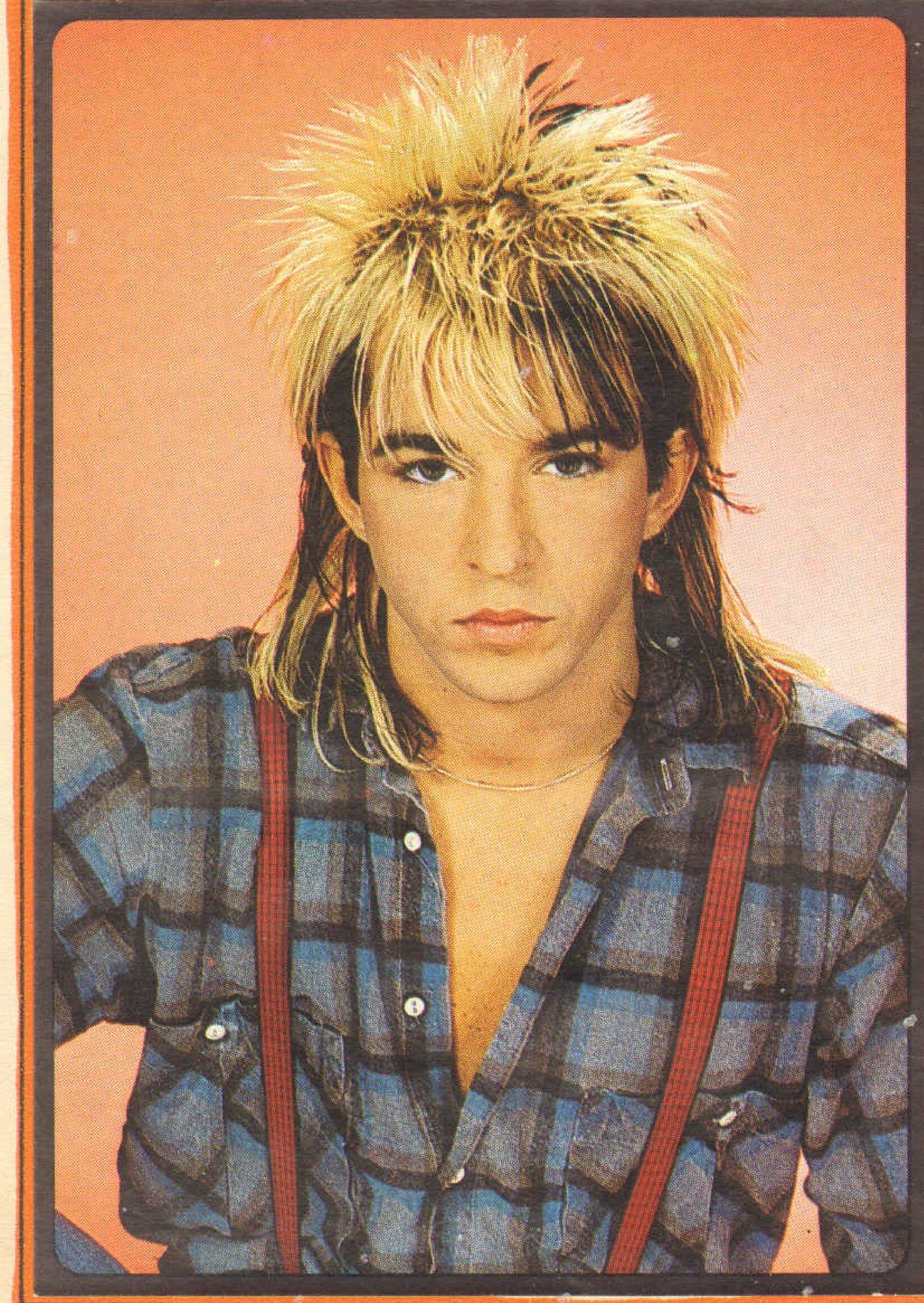
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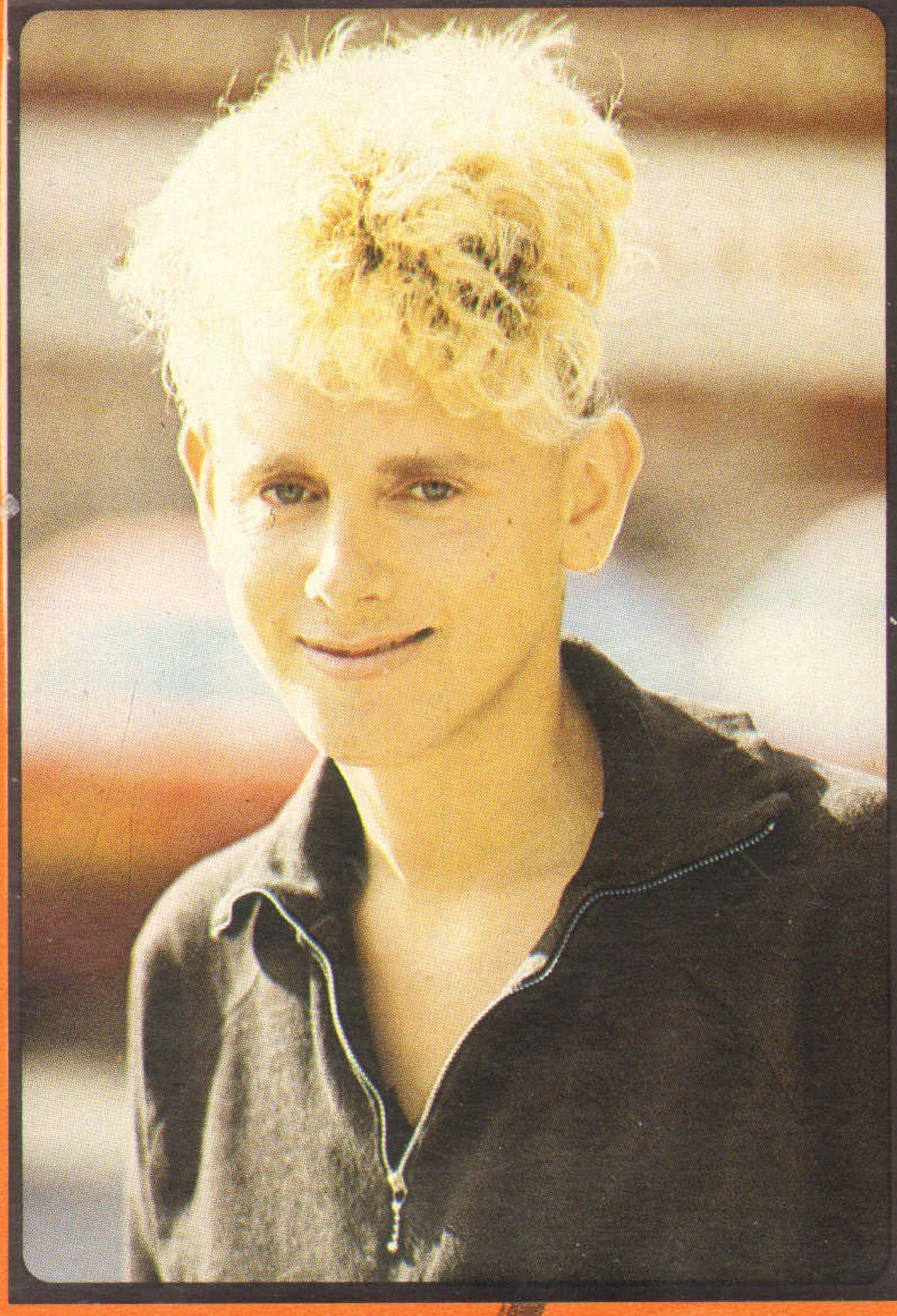
HOWARD JONES: born 23/2/55 in Southampton but much travelled childhood. Left music college in Manchester on discovery of synthesiser. Started writing and performing around High Wycombe base, assisted by dance expressionist Jed Hoile. Instant success with "New Song". Vegetarian, teetotaller, and married to Jan.

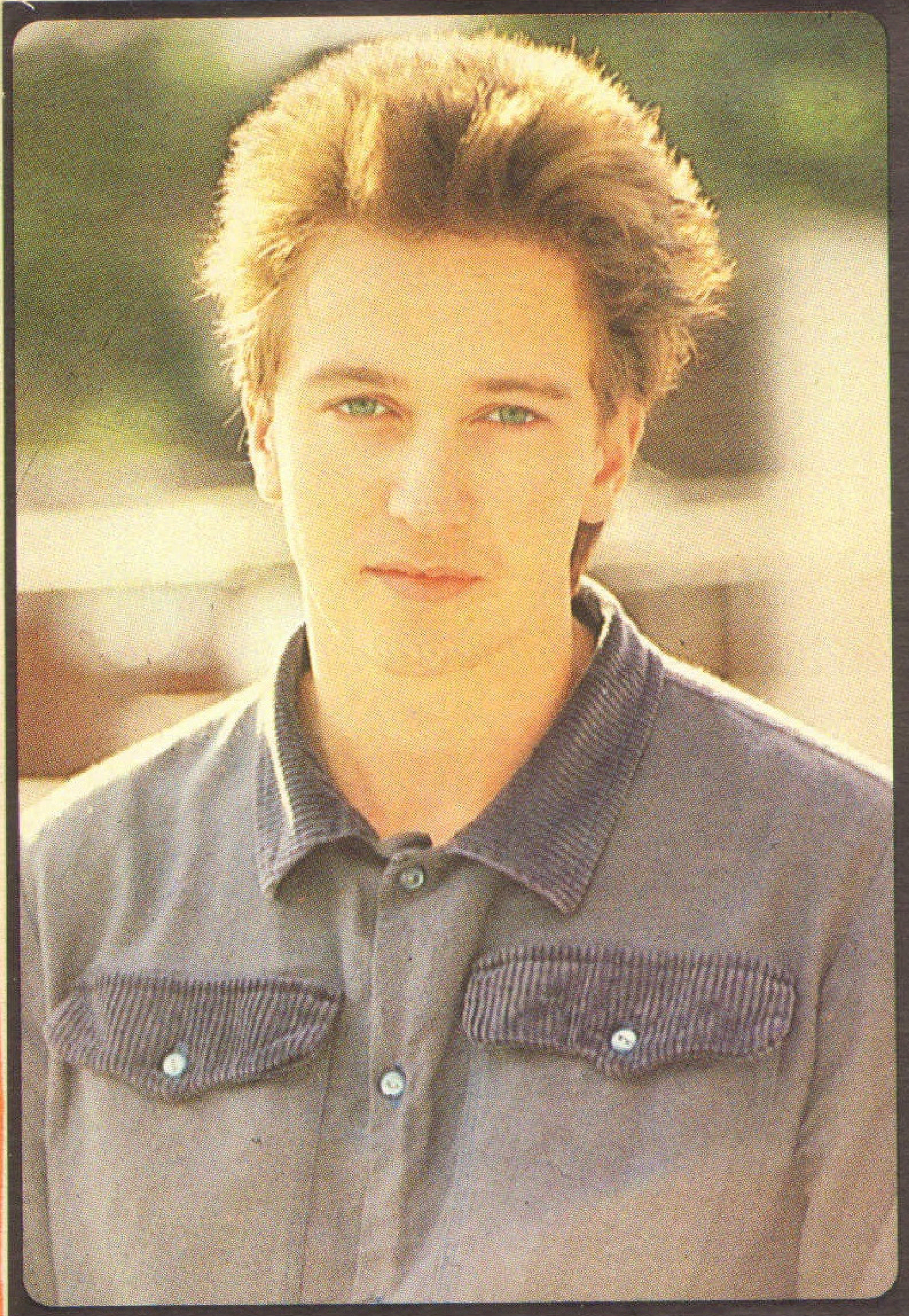
LIMAHL: born Christopher Hamill 19/12/58 in Wigan. Raised on Northern Soul, worked as actor and joined string of short lived bands before Kajagoogoo. Introduced them to fame via Nick Rhodes but sacked dramatically. Now solo success. Vegetarian because of belief in reincarnation.

MARTIN GORE: born 23/7/61. Former bank clerk, was first in Basildon band to buy synthesiser and helped pioneer pop use of said instrument. Contributed to writing in original line-up and took over as chief writer on departure of Vince Clarke. Quiet (apart from deafening laugh) and introverted, but definite views.













ALAN WILDER: born 1/6/59. A Londoner, Alan cut his musical teeth in pop-rock band The Hitmen before being recruited into Depeche Mode via music paper advert as replacement keyboard player for Vince Clarke. Now contributes to band's writing. Snooker player, list maker and a bit of a charmer.

PAUL WELLER: born John William Weller 25/5/58 in Woking. Family nicknamed him Paul. Formed The Jam at school with Rick Buckler and Bruce Foxton before disbanding on verge of international breakthrough. Stylish but forthright and concerned, has publishing company (Riot Stories) and record label (Respond). Sixties soul fan.

MICK TALBOT: born 11/9/58. Was in mod band Merton Parkas before brief spell in Dexy's Midnight Runners and breakaway offshoot The Bureau. Only permanent member of Style Council, was recruited by Weller because of his jazz/soul organ playing, and their common dislike of the rock establishment.

mode

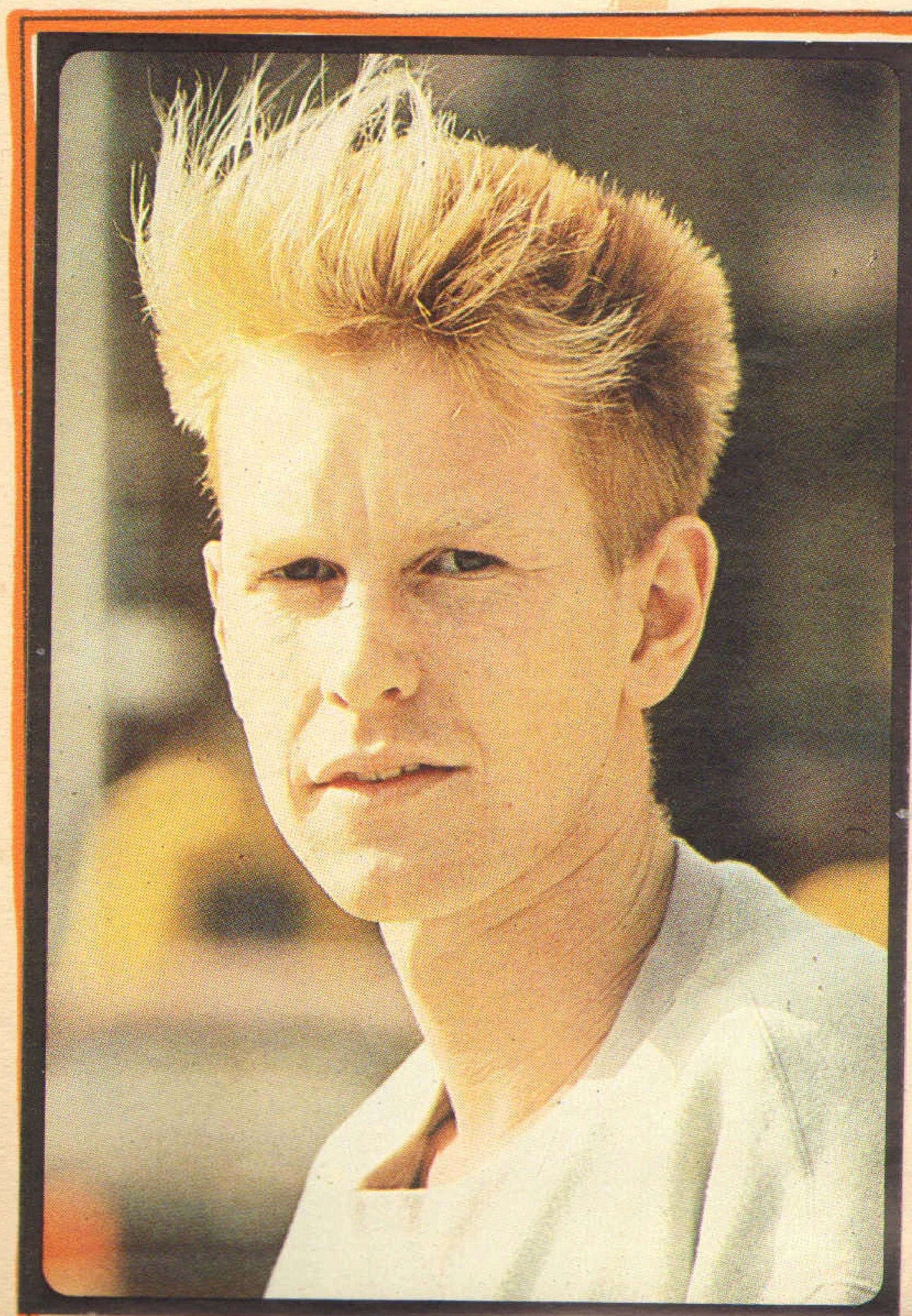
style council

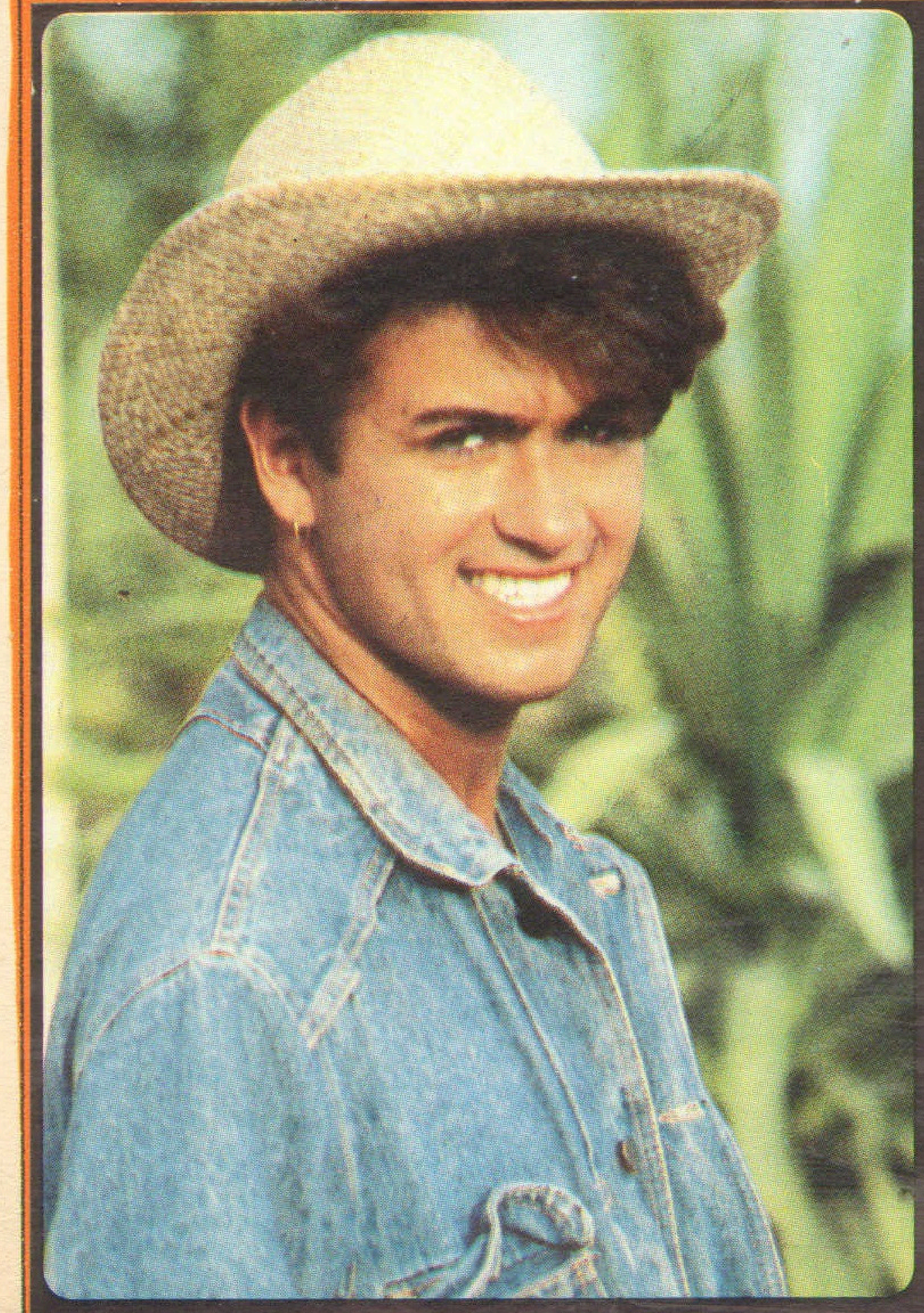
wham!

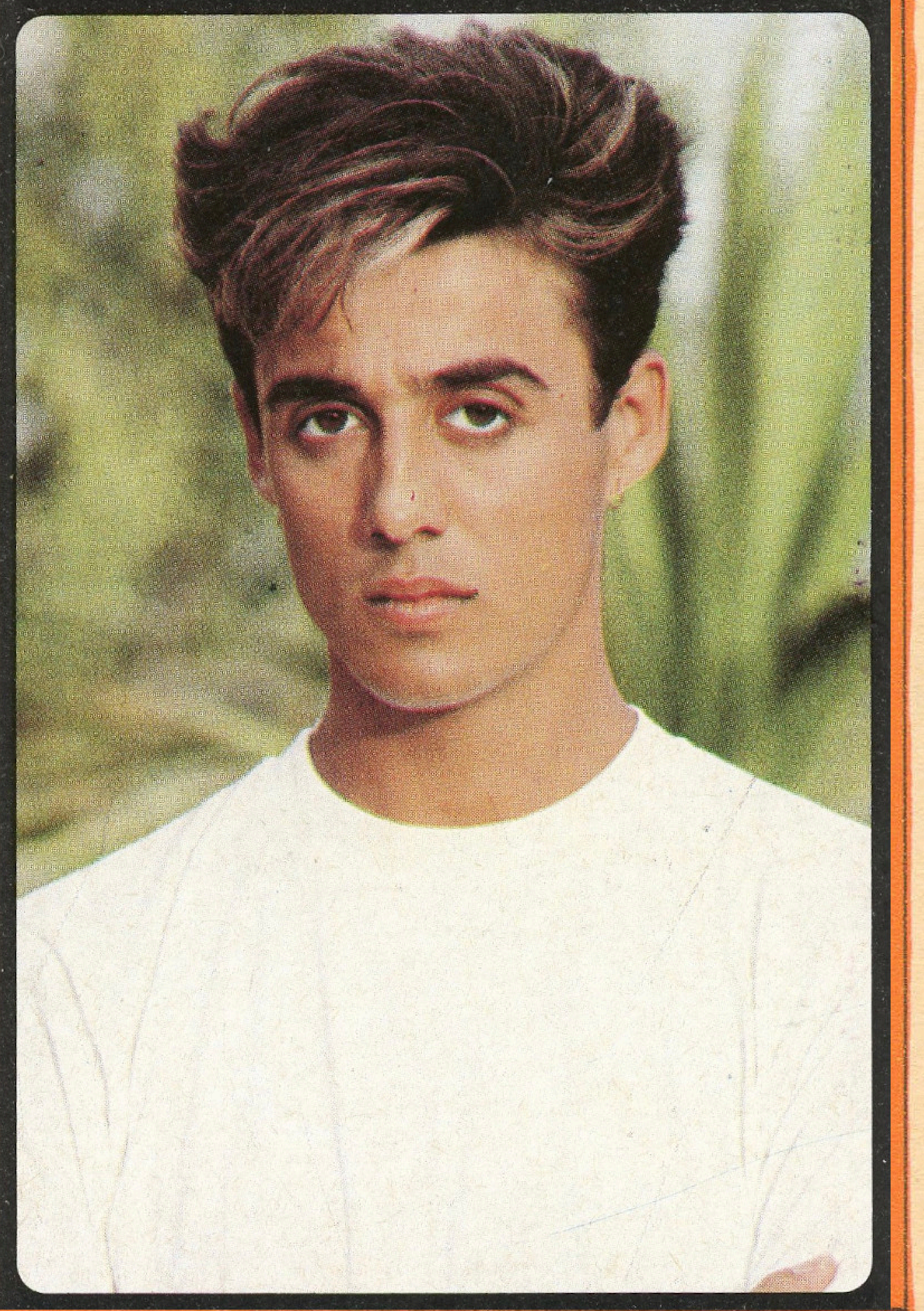
ANDY FLETCHER: born 8/7/61. A former insurance clerk, played originally in a gospel folk-duo with Vince Clarke before abandoning bass for synthesiser because of its ability to produce more interesting sounds. Name Depeche Mode was taken from French fashion magazine because it sounded good.

GEORGE MICHAEL: born George Michael Panos, 25/6/63. Father is from Cyprus. Knew from early age wanted to play music. After 'A' levels, formed Wham! with schoolmate Andrew Ridgeley. His idea to use funk riff with non-funk lyric as young music for young people and "Wham! Rap" was born. Also solo soul project in mind.

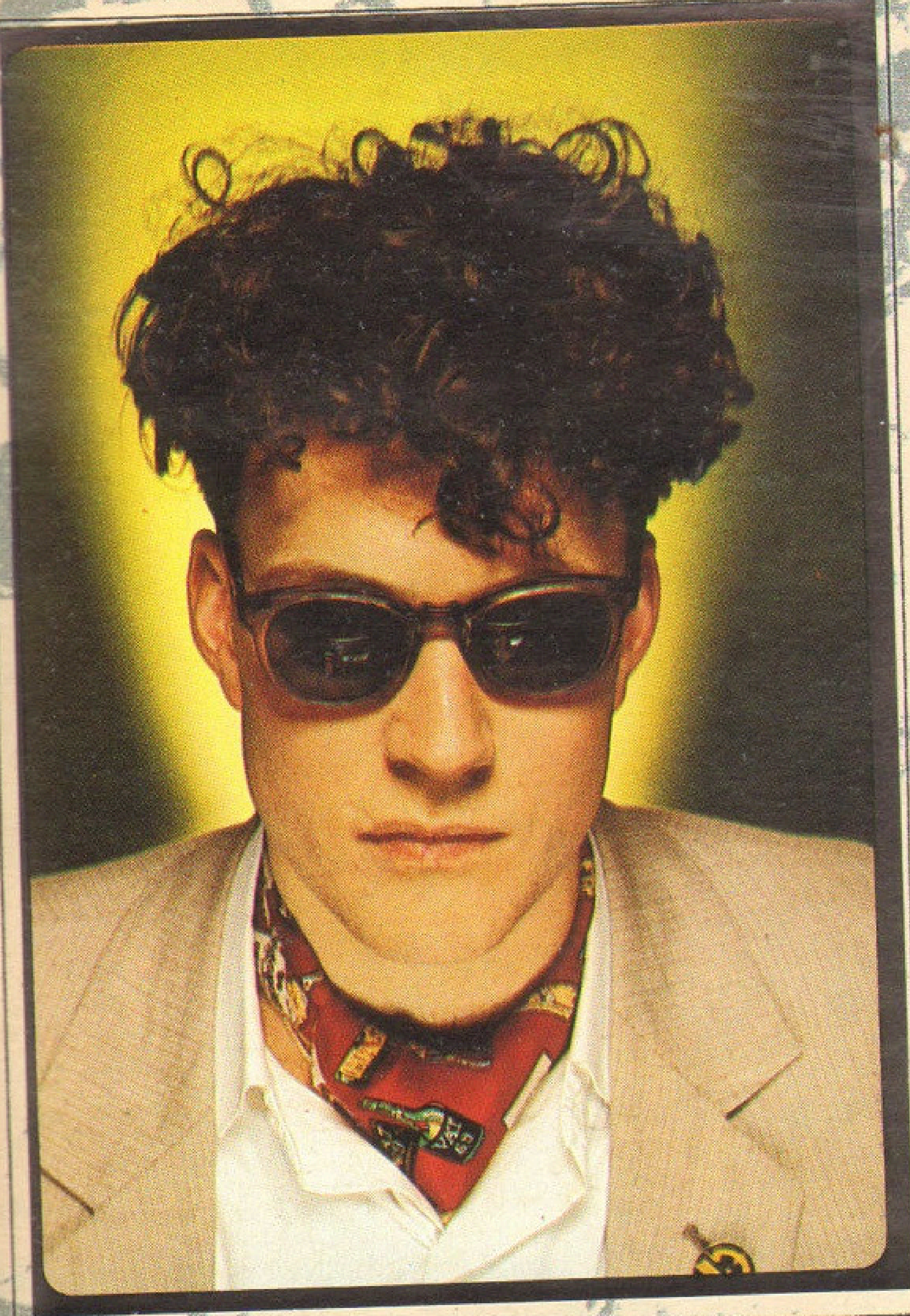
ANDREW RIDGELEY: born 26/1/63. Nine year friendship with George Michael, meeting at North London comprehensive. As soul boys went nightclubbing before first band as ska revivalists The Executives in 1980. Made home tapes of imaginary radio shows before making £20.00 demo of "Wham Rap" in June 1982.





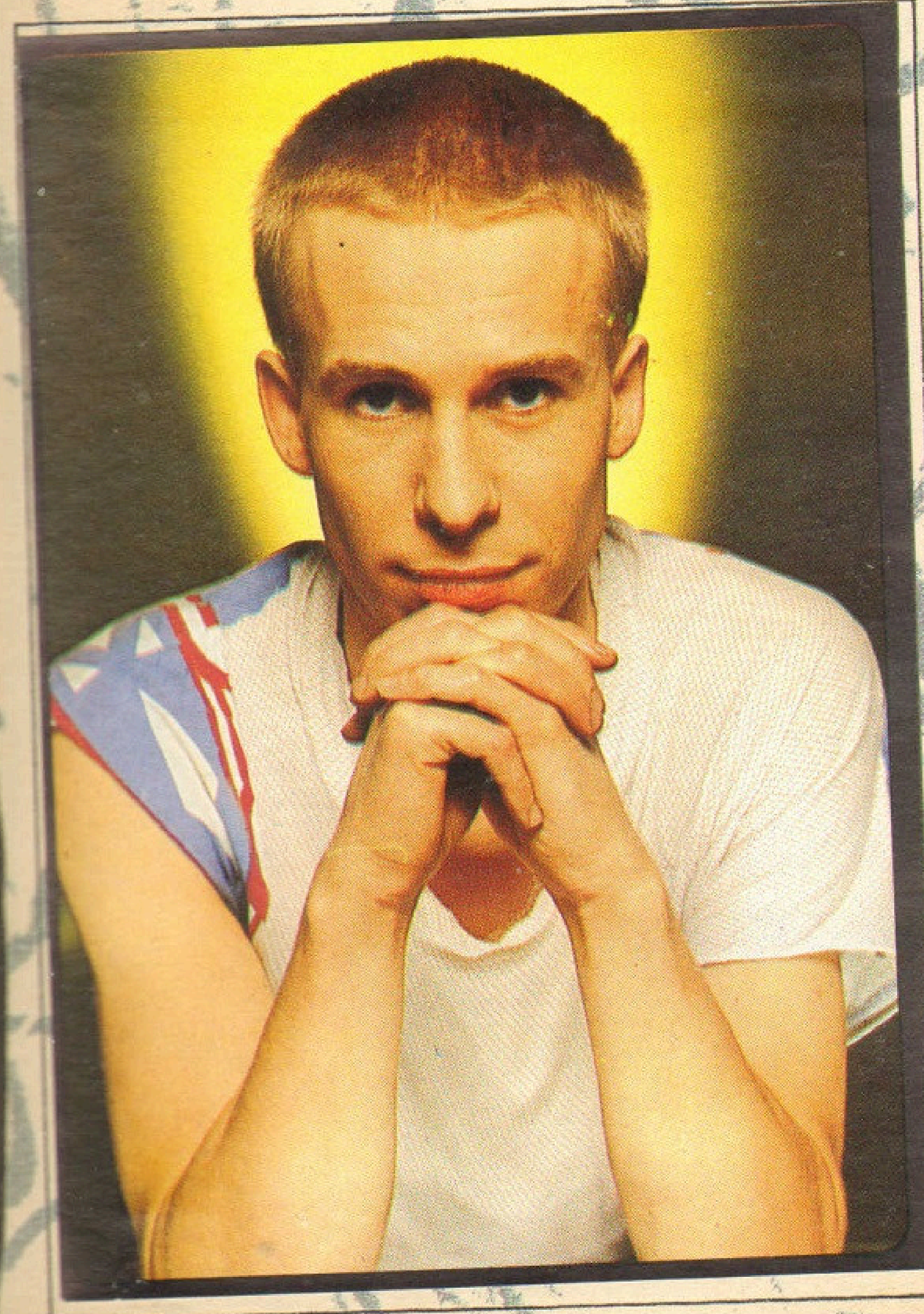


BLANCMANGE



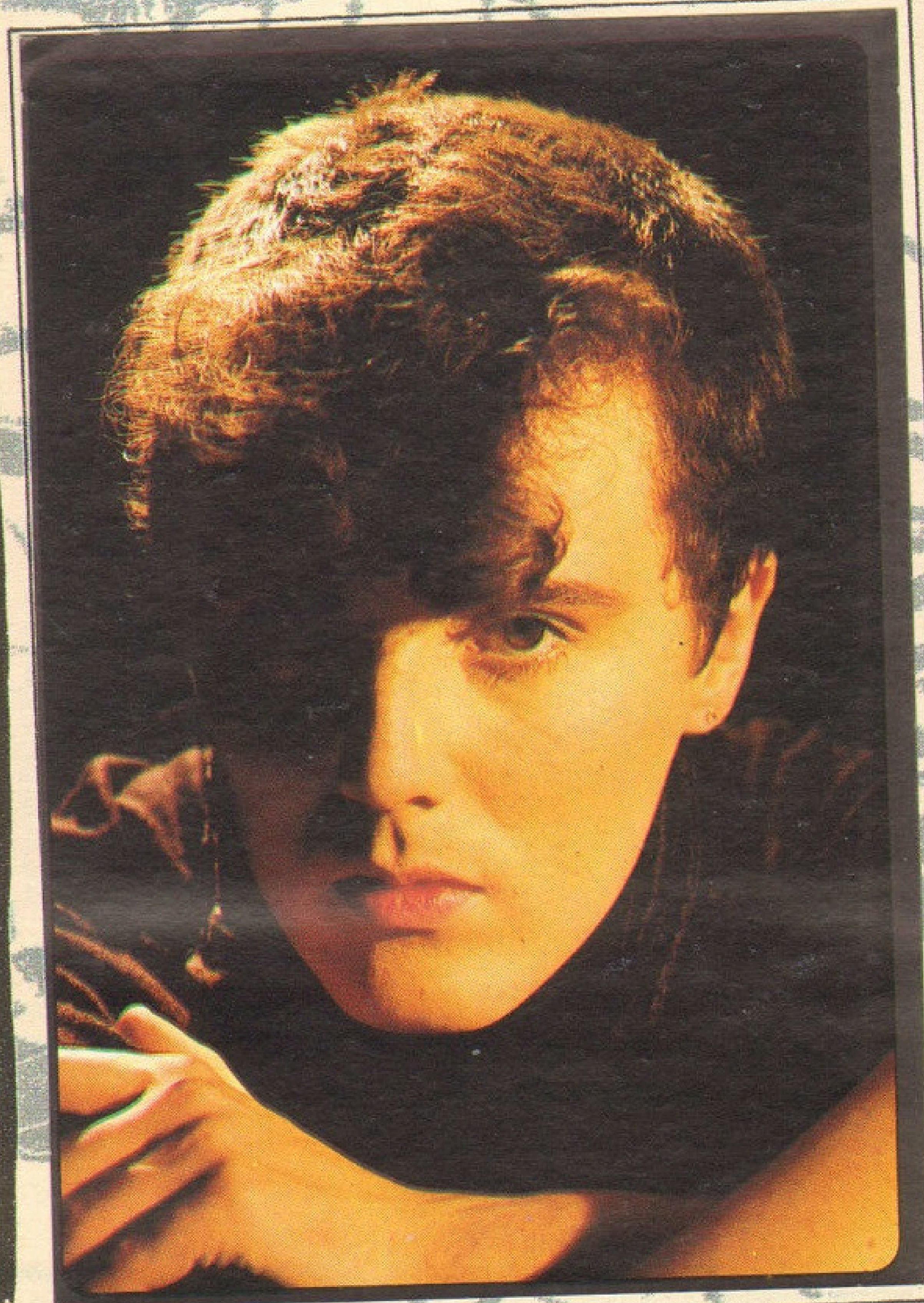
NEIL ARTHUR: born 15/6/58 in Darwen, Lancs. Tall, outgoing and Northern, shares common background in graphic design with Stephen. Blancmange began in 1979 on casual basis with strong arty experimental streak. Issued independent "Irene And Mavis" EP before third single on London "Living On The Ceiling" broke Top Ten in October 1982. Keen potholer.

STEPHEN LUSCOMBE: born 29/10/54 in Uxbridge, Middlesex. Small, quiet and Southern, is total contrast to Neil apart from trade as graphic designer. Blancmange named after Stephen's odd taste in party themes. No ambitions when started – claims success an accident. Duo donated South African royalties from "Living On The Ceiling" to banned African National Congress.

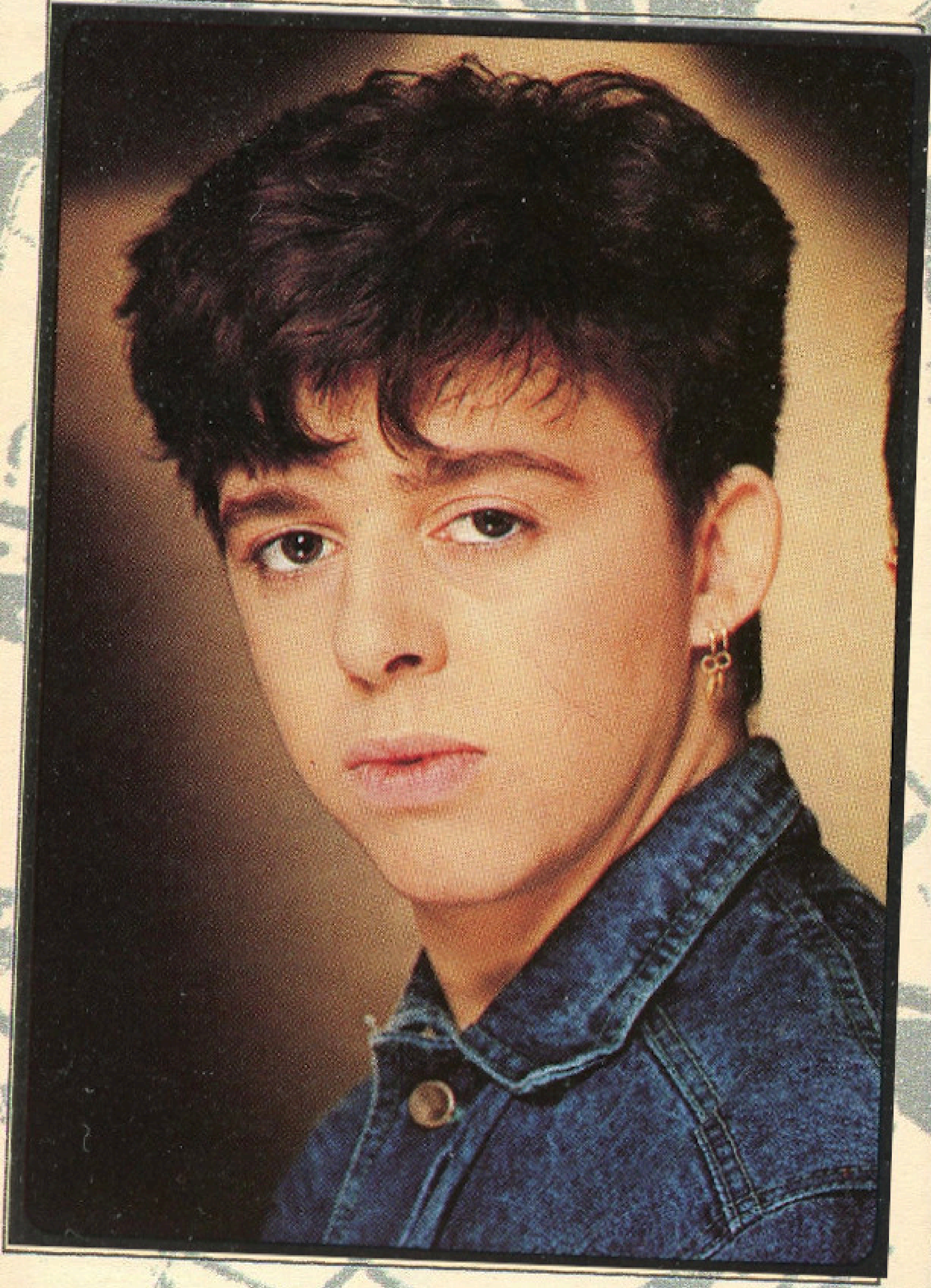


BLANCMANGE

CURT SMITH: born 24/6/61 in Bath. Recruited guitarist Roland into school band after hearing him sing Blue Oyster Cult, age 13. Found selves in pop band Graduate, continuing as duo after split. Secured deal on basis of only two songs they had (first two singles) then hit with third, "Mad World".

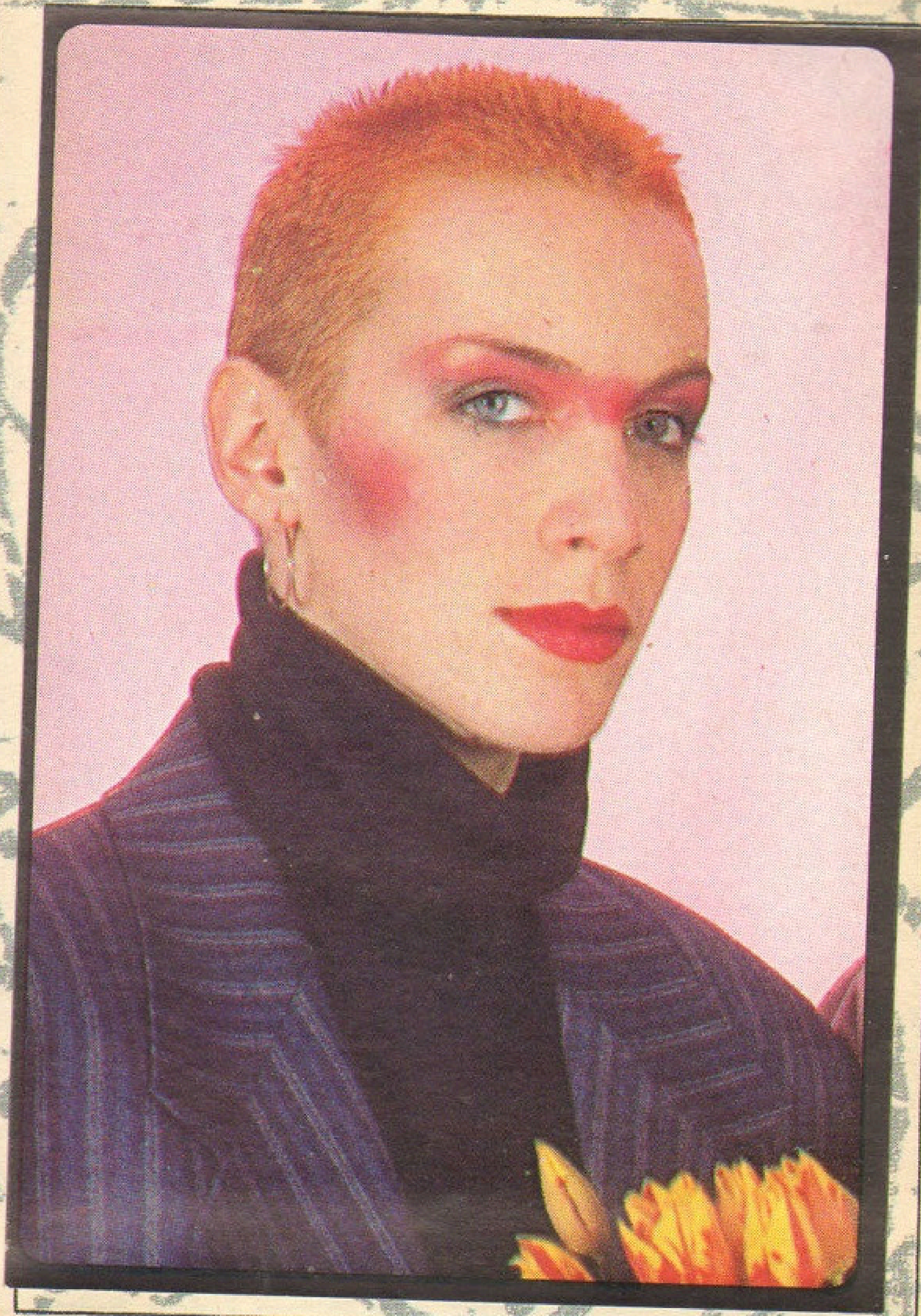


TEARS FOR FEARS



ROLAND ORZABAL: born 22/8/61, in Portsmouth. Full surname is Orzabal de la Quintana (mother is Basque-Spanish). Moved to Bath, began guitar playing at nine and later acquired interest in Primal Therapy of confronting fears to eliminate them – hence Tears For (i.e. as a release for) Fears. Also explains earlier lyrics.

EURYTHMICS



ANNIE LENNOX: born 25/12/54 in Aberdeen. Studied piano and flute for three years at Royal Academy in London. Met Dave in 1977 whilst working as waitress. After The Tourists split in 1980, pair formed Eurythmics with own material and finally hit with fifth single "Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)". Great visual sense.

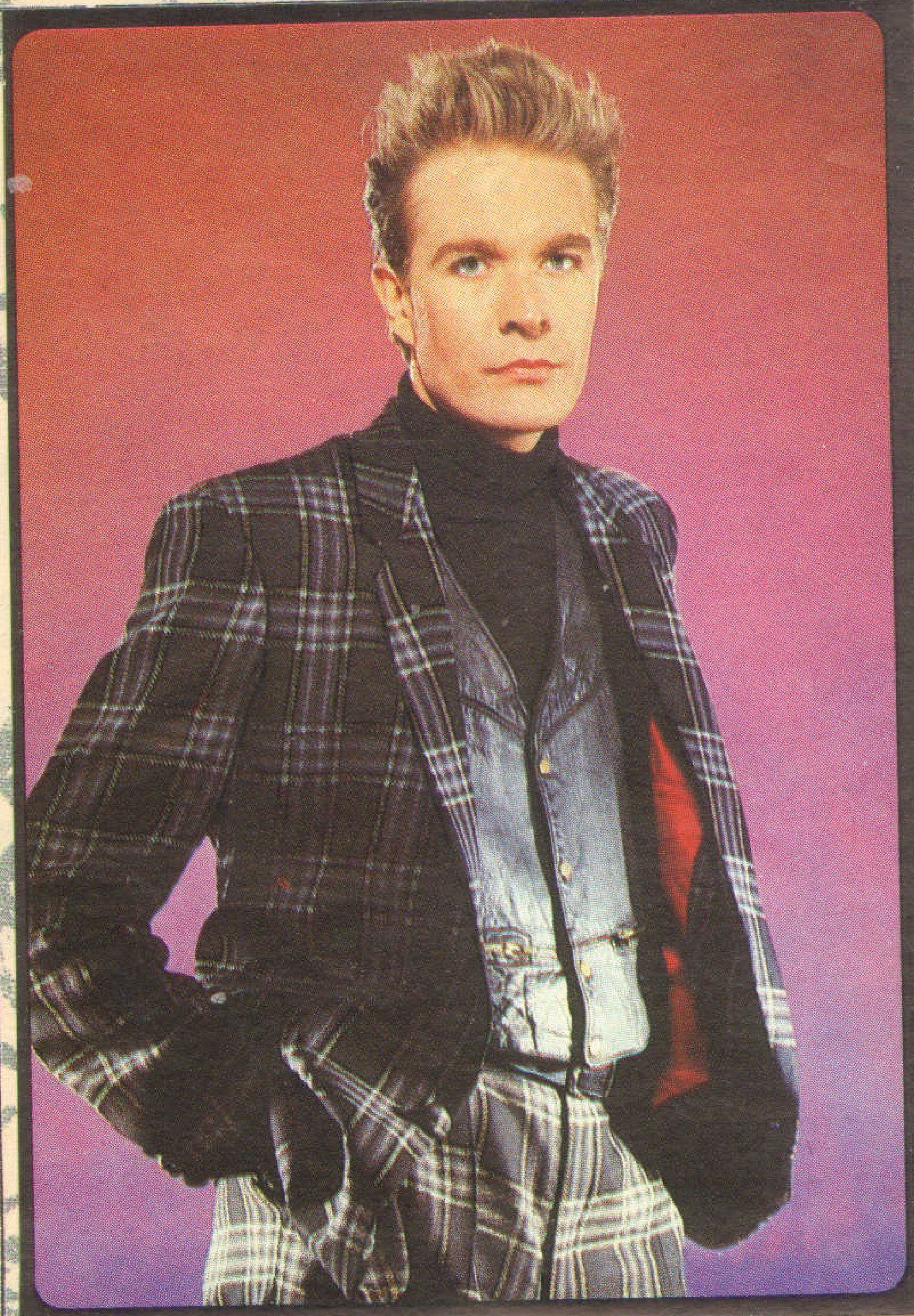
DAVE STEWART: born 9/9/52 in Sunderland. Played football for England Boys. Raised on diet of blues, was solo act at age 15. Later formed The Tourists with Peet Coombes and Annie Lennox before birth of Eurythmics to blend soul and electronics. Invested all money in recording equipment; both meticulous planners.

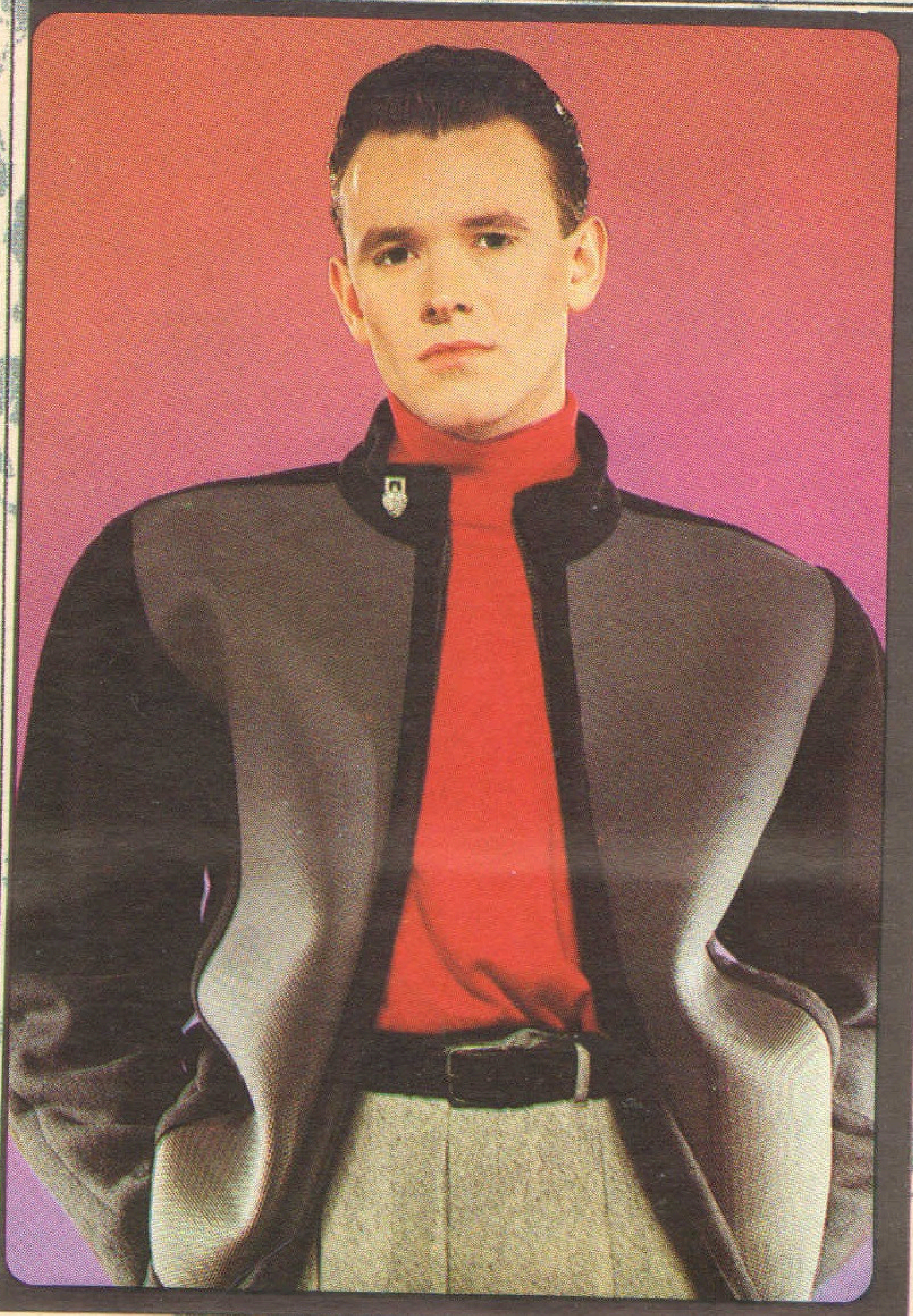


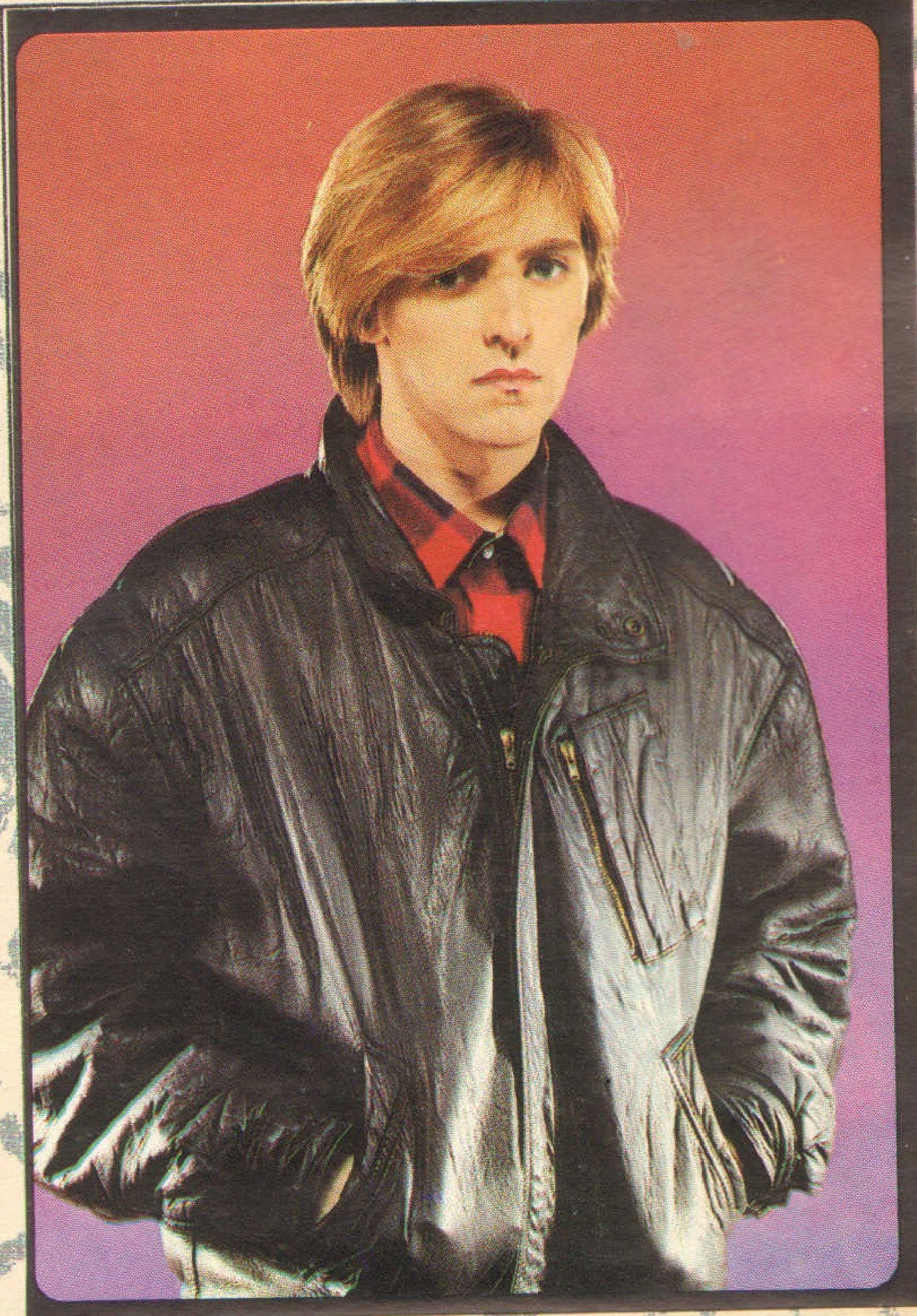
EURYTHMICS

ABC

MARK WHITE: born 1/4/61. Founded Vice Versa, a deadly serious Sheffield electronic group, with Steve Singleton before arrival of Martin Fry and transformation into ABC. Bass player Mark Lickly and drummer David Palmer also came and went as slick Trevor Horn-produced "Lexicon Of Love" sold 2 million copies.







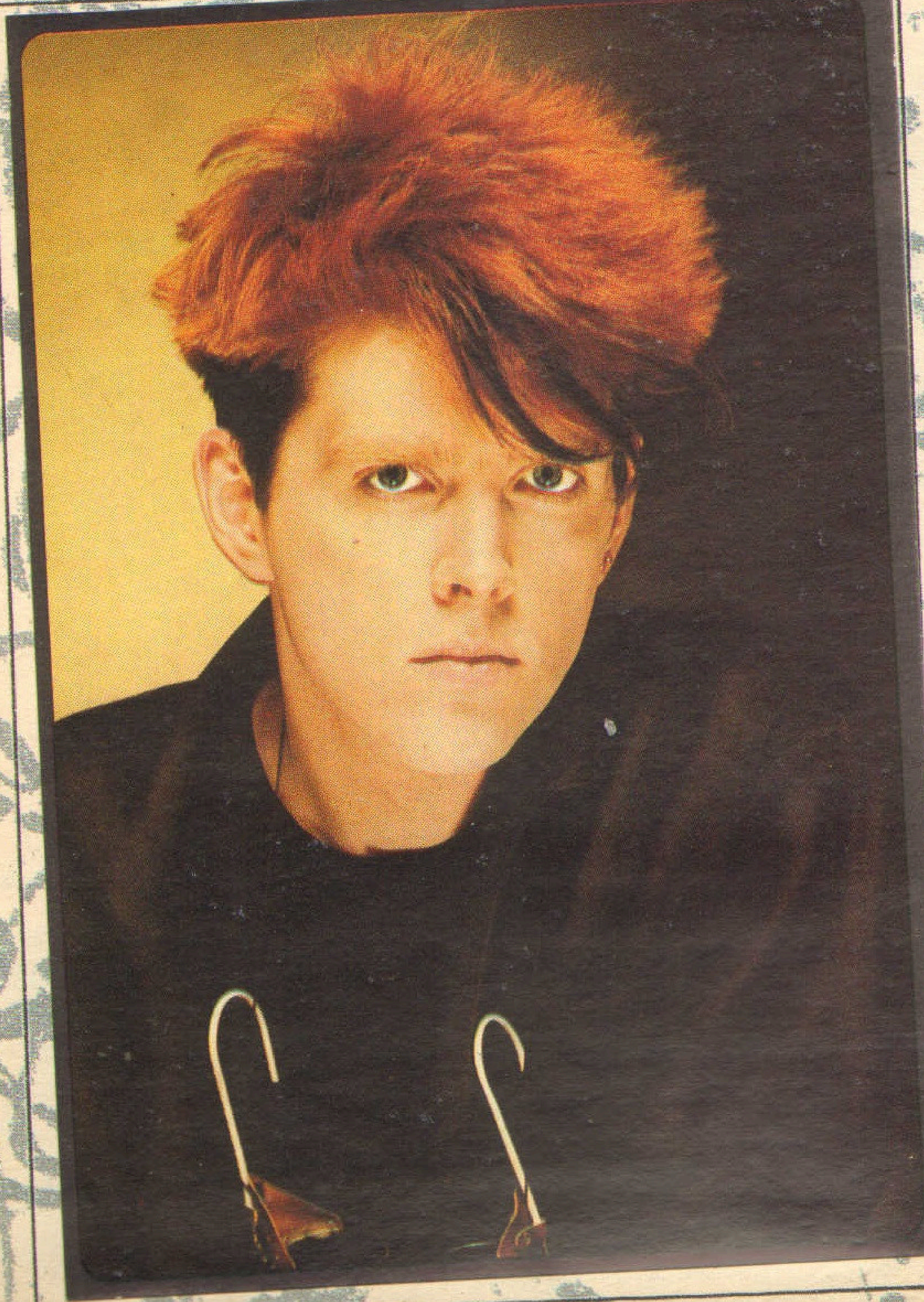
MARTIN FRY: born 9/3/58 in Manchester. English Literature degree from Sheffield University, is careful planner and enthusiastic ABC propagandist. Set very high standards and fulfilled them with the Radical Dance faction's series of finely-crafted singles. Understands value of presentation and production.

STEVE SINGLETON: born 16/4/59. Saxophonist Steve met guitarist Mark White in same Sheffield disco (Crazy Daisy) as Phil Oakey met Susan and Joanne. Worked in jewellers for three years while mother and sister also work for ABC. Co-founder of band's own Neutron label. ABC emphasis now on rawer guitar sound.

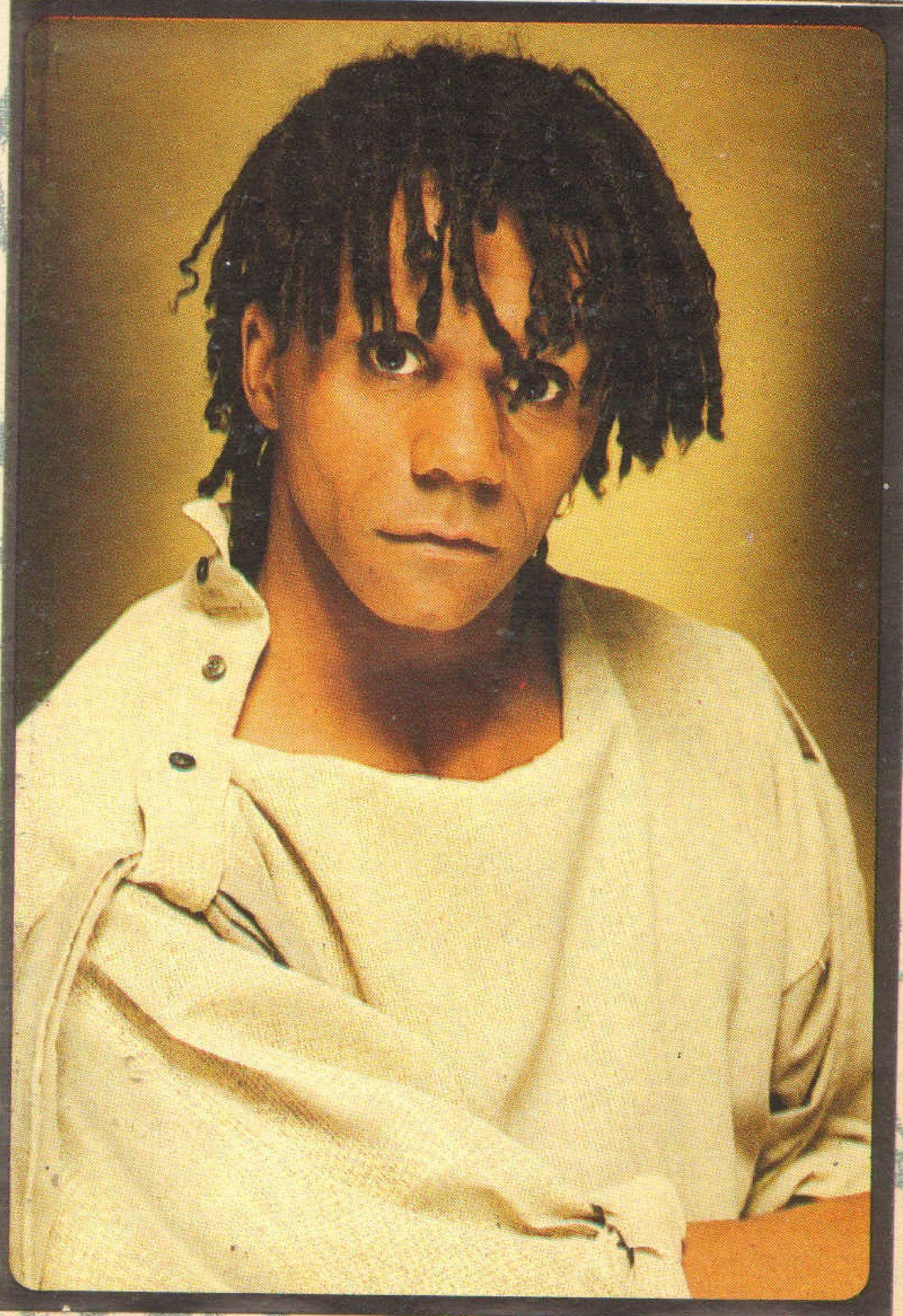
THOMPSON TWINS

TOM BAILEY: born 18/1/57. Formed Thompson Twins (named after Tin Tin cartoon characters) in Chesterfield in 1977. Previous jobs: garbage collection, ice cream selling, music teaching. Split old experimental rhythmic band to revert to simple three minute pop songs, blending traditional with electronic technology.

JOE LEEWAY: born 15/11/57 in Leicester. Joined band in 1981 to play percussion and sing backing vocals. Previous job: actor at Old Vic theatre in London. Left to roadie for band after meeting Tom at party. Stagecraft ideas crucial to presentation of live show. Unassuming, polite and courteous.







ALANNAH CURRIE: born 20/9/59 in Auckland, New Zealand. Came to Britain after reading about punk. Joined band in 1981 to play percussion and honk sax "just for a bit of madness." Previous jobs: packing hats, deckchair attendant, cleaner, waitress. Admits she's not that much of a musician. Concerned more with visual presentation.

MADNE



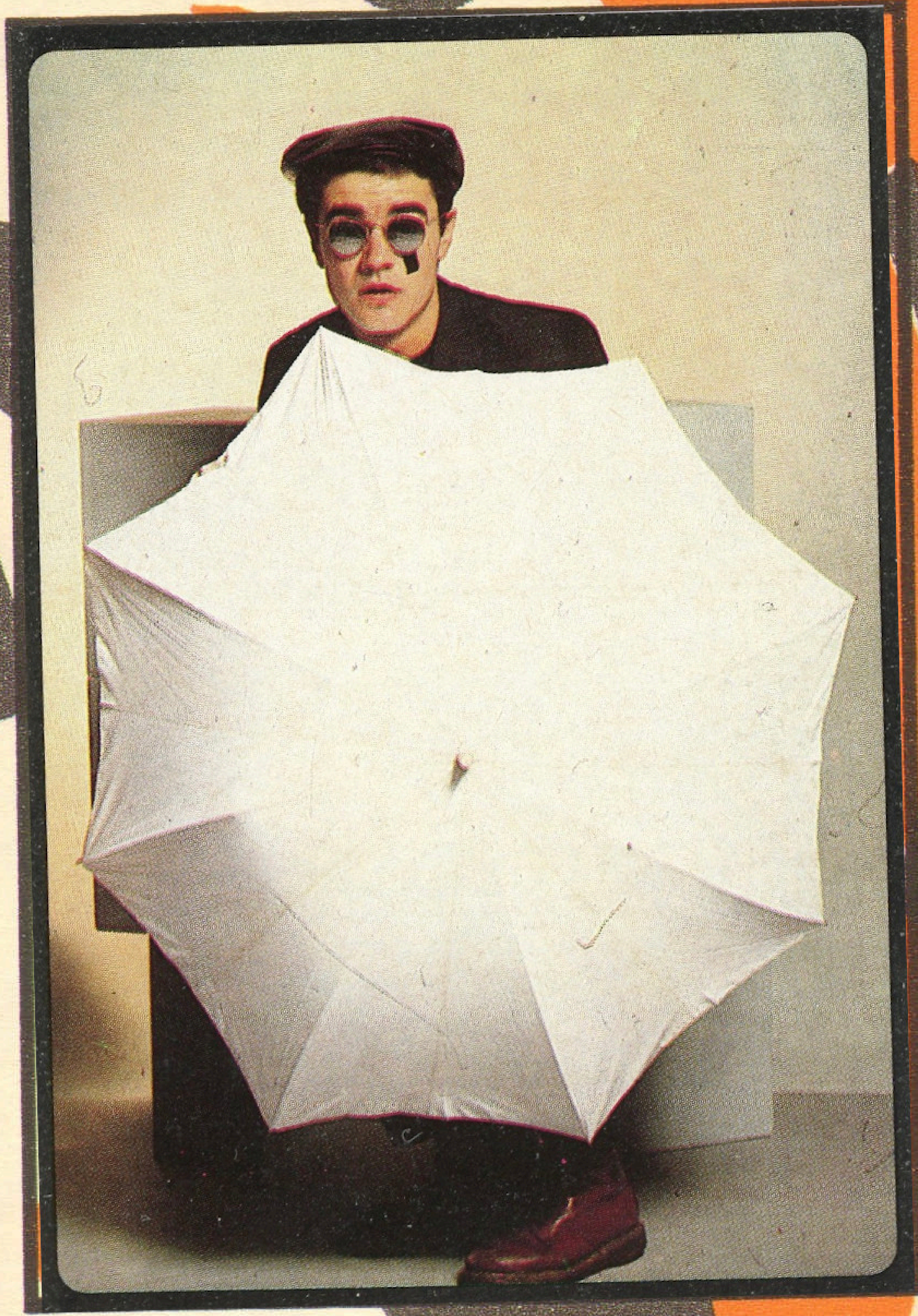
SUGGS: born Graham McPherson 13/1/61 in Hastings. Finally settled in London at age 11. Acquired nickname at random from book of jazz musicians. Auditioned for Madness by singing same verse of "See You Later Alligator" three times. Once sacked for going to football instead of rehearsals. Married to Anne, daughter Scarlett.



CHAS SMASH: born Carl Smith, 14/1/59. Initially played bass but left to work in Ashford, Kent, before returning as compere and co-vocalist. At first some insecure needling with Suggs, but settled down and nutty dancing became feature of group. Officially rejoined in December 1979 for third single "My Girl". Also plays trumpet.

MIKE BARSON: born 21/4/58 in Edinburgh. With Chrissy Boy, co-founder of Madness as North London Invaders in 1978. A bit of a musical dictator, the 6'2" pianist wrote many of Madness' constant stream of hits. Married Sandra, went to live in Holland and sadly left band at tail end of 1983.





CHRISSY BOY: born Christopher Foreman, 8/8/58. Former tea maker with GPO, guitarist co-founded Madness with Monsieur Barso. Collective influences: Roxy Music, Gary Glitter and Kilburn & The High Roads (featuring Ian Dury). Responsible for naming band after old Prince Buster song. Married to Susan, son Matthew.

SS

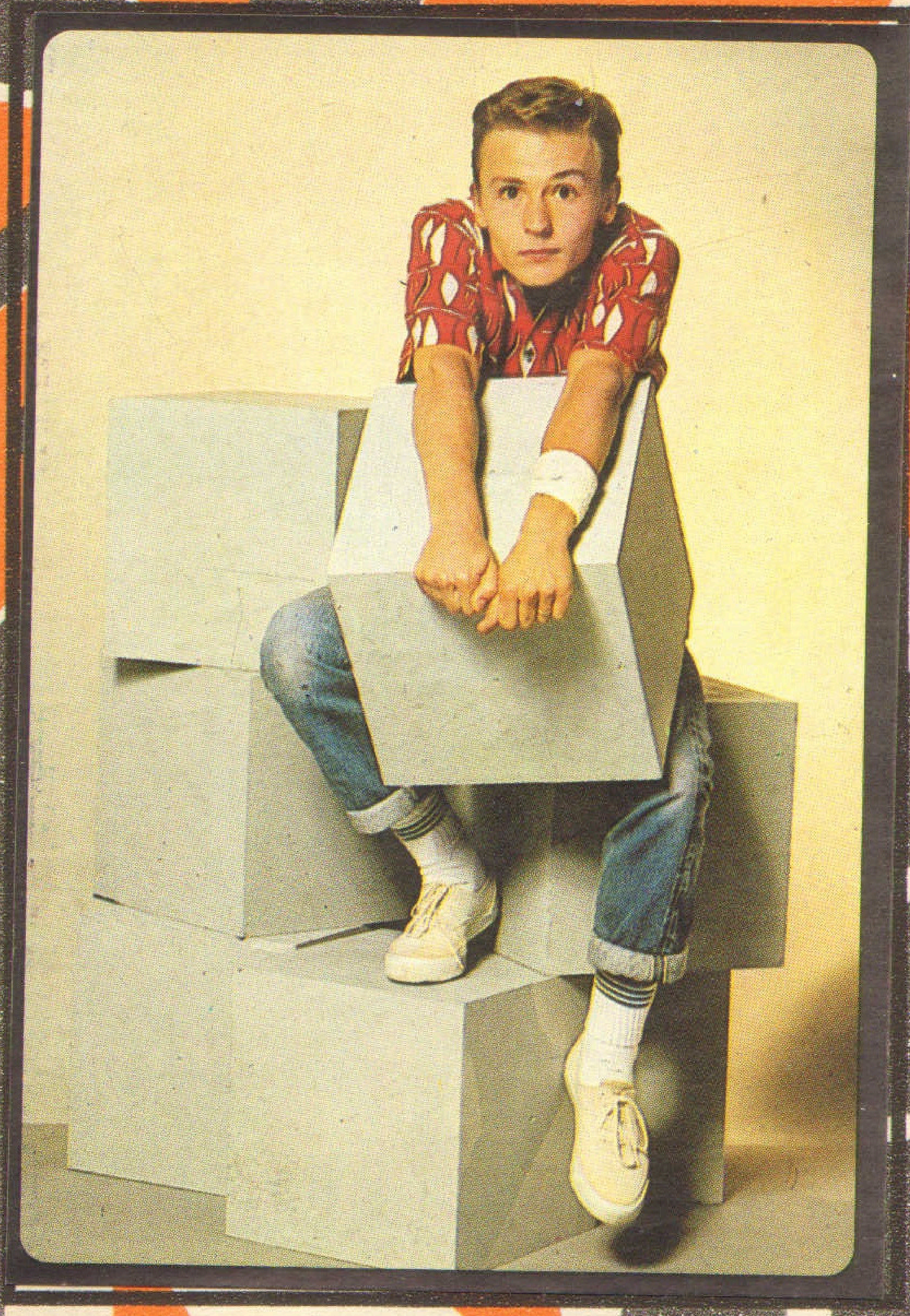


LEE THOMPSON: born 5/10/58. Sax player Lee was actually in at the start with Chrissy and Barso but in and out of band during 1978. Dark horse of the band and good writer – penned "The Prince" (first single on Specials' Two Tone label). Lack of funds prevented album so Madness signed to Stiff and hits galore.

TRACEY ULLMAN

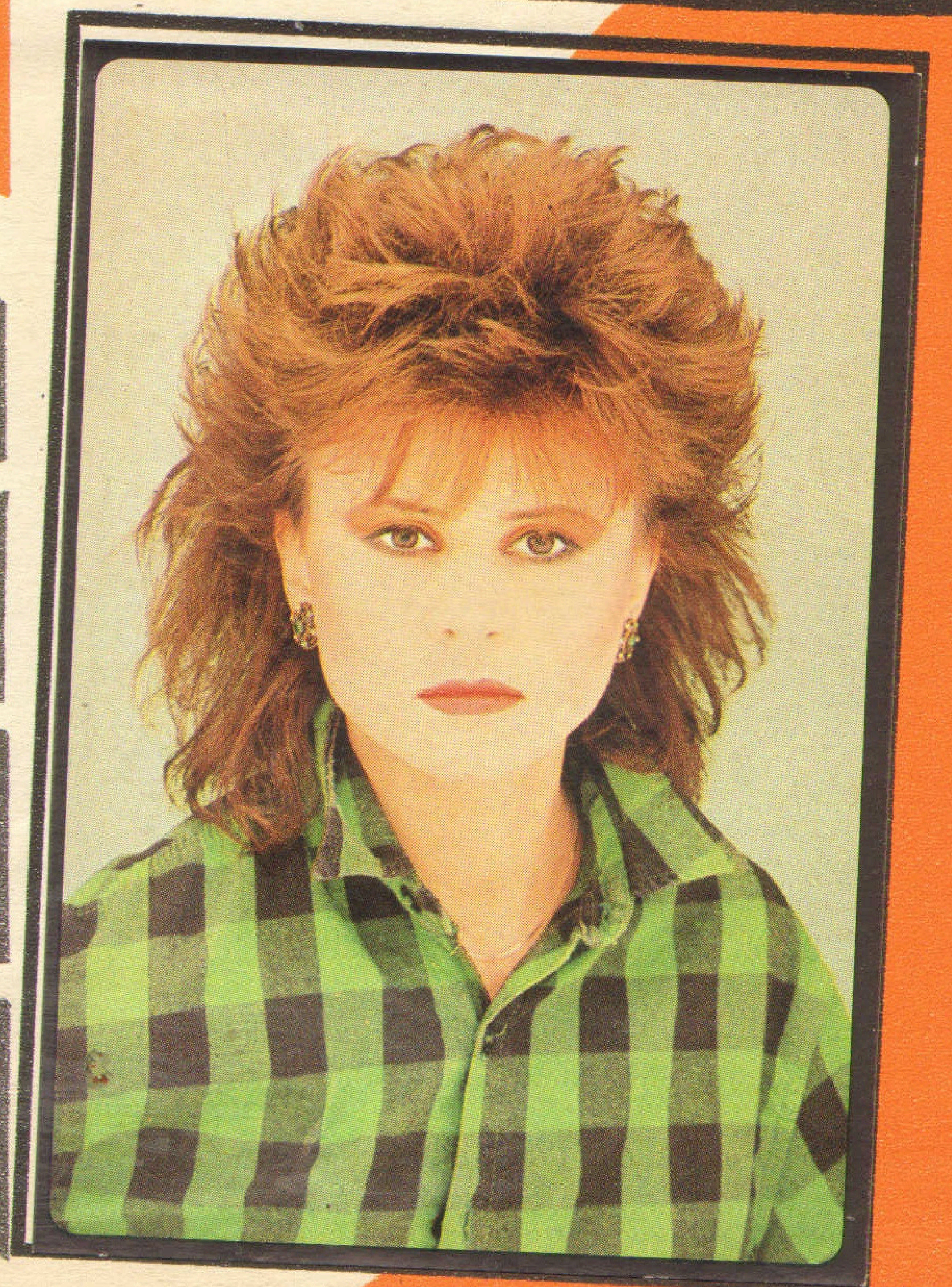
BEDDERS: born Mark Bedford, 24/8/61. Took up bass at age 15 and introduced to Madness in June 1978 by then drummer and classmate Gary Dovey (who left after argument with Lee). First gig with band was free bop organised by Bedders at old school! Casual job: screen printer at roller blind factory.





WOODY: born Daniel Woodgate, 19/10/60. Former graphic designer and labourer, Woody had previously seen band play and when heard they needed a drummer, rang up mate Bedders. Band rehearse seriously till early 1979, then first gig as Madness at Music Machine (now trendy Camden Palace) 5/4/79. Woody is married to Jane.

TRACEY ULLMAN: born 30/12/59. Dancer, comedienne, serious actress. Went to stage school at age 12, then "Gigi" ballet in Berlin, Second Generation dance troupe, stage versions of "Elvis" (with Shaky) and "Grease" before "Kick Up The Eighties" and "Three Of A Kind". Married to millionaire TV producer Allan McKeown.



ultravox

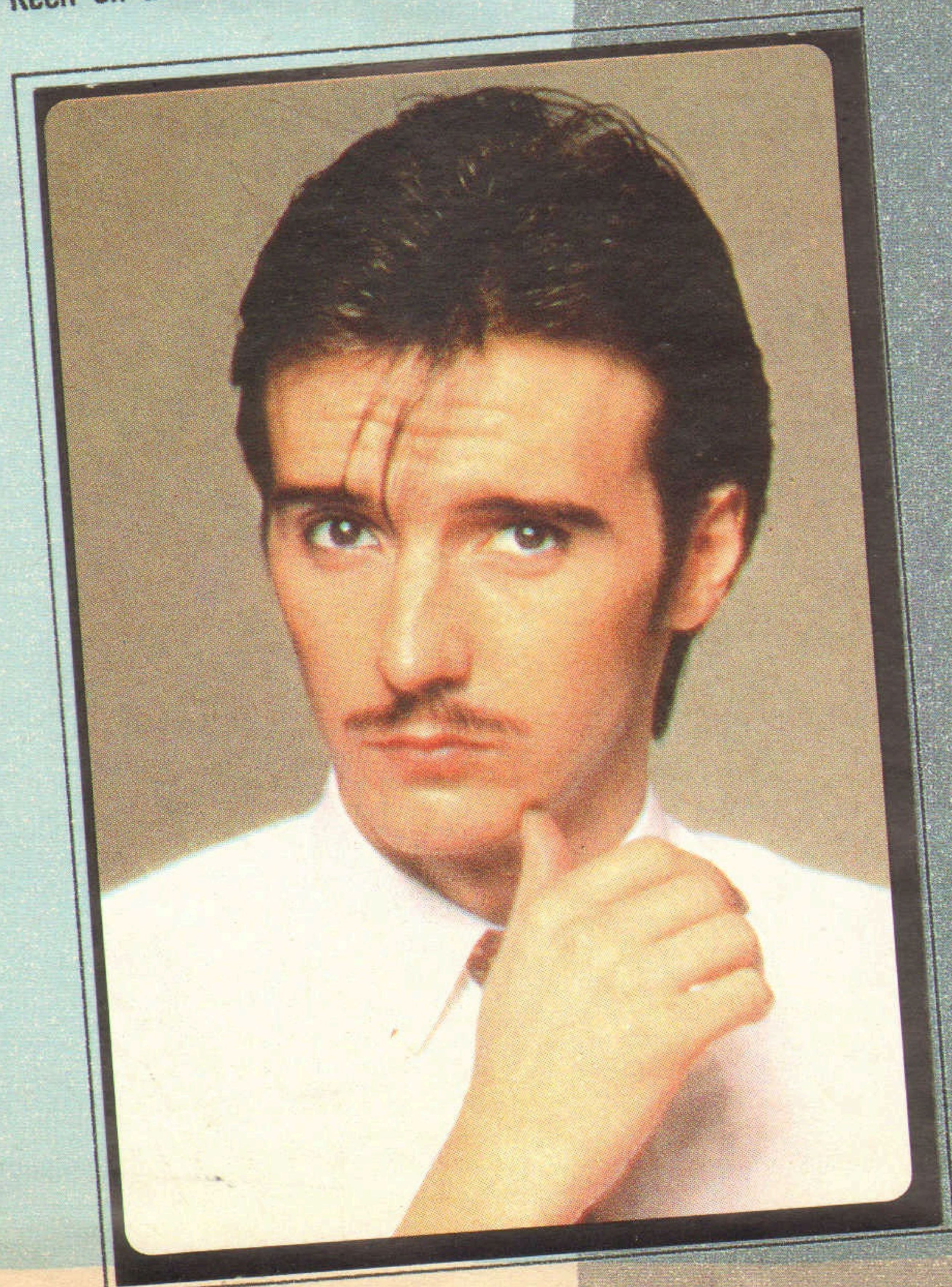
WARREN CANN: born 20/5/52 in Victoria, Canada. Started drumming at age 15 and arrived in Britain in 1971 from Vancouver. Joined Ultravox April 1974 and pioneered use of drum machine. Has recorded album "Spies" with *German electronics wizard Hans Zimmer under name* Helden. Hobbies include flying and gliding.

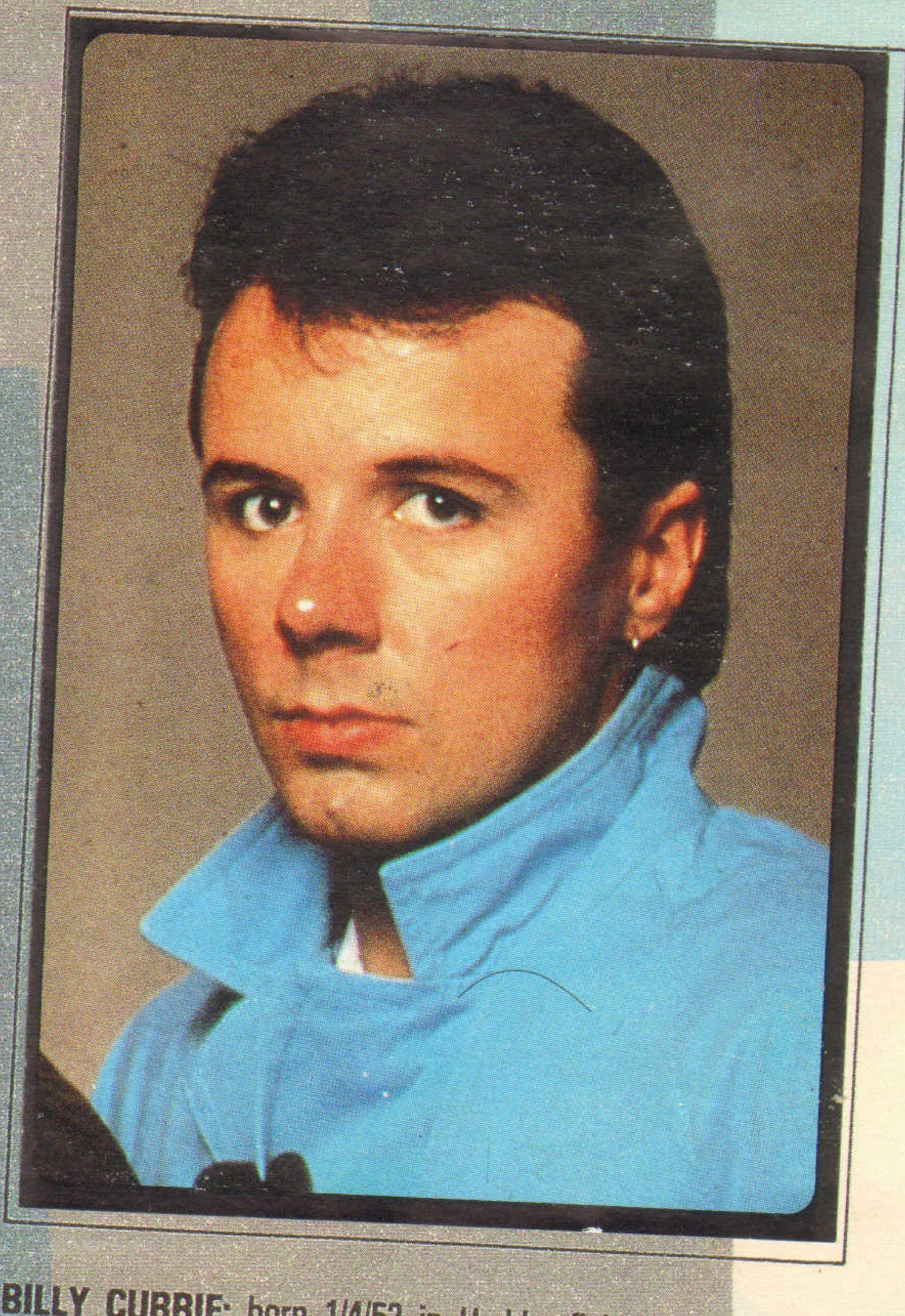




CHRIS CROSS: born Christopher Allen 14/7/52 in London. Was also bassist in early version of Ultravox called Tiger Lily with John Foxx. Together with Midge, has directed all recent Ultravox visuals and also recorded "Bloodied Sword" LP with British eccentric Maxwell Langdown – like Shakespeare play with electronics.

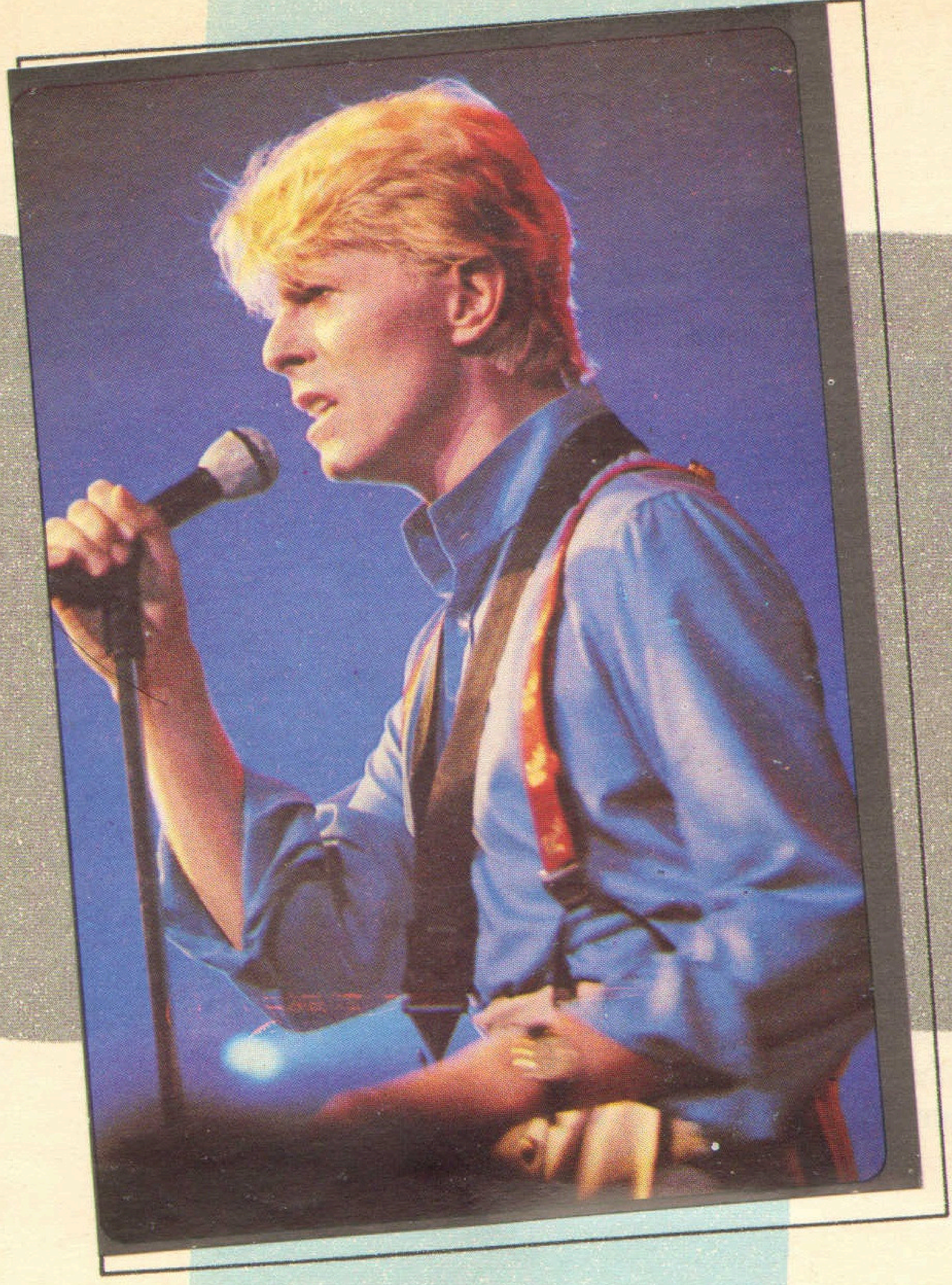
MIDGE URE: born James Ure 10/10/53 in Cambuslang, Glasgow. First guitar at age 14 then chequered history with Slik, Rich Kids, Thin Lizzy and Visage (early convert to synthesisers.) Joined Ultravox summer 1979. Prolific worker – also solo recordings and LP with Mick Karn. Keen on artwork, videos and old cars.





BILLY CURRIE: born 1/4/52 in Huddersfield. Started violin at school, age 11. Attended local music college before joining Ultravox in October 1974. Despite friction with John Foxx and rejection by press, developed distinctive sound later used as model by Gary Numan. Wife Judy Storm is fashion designer.

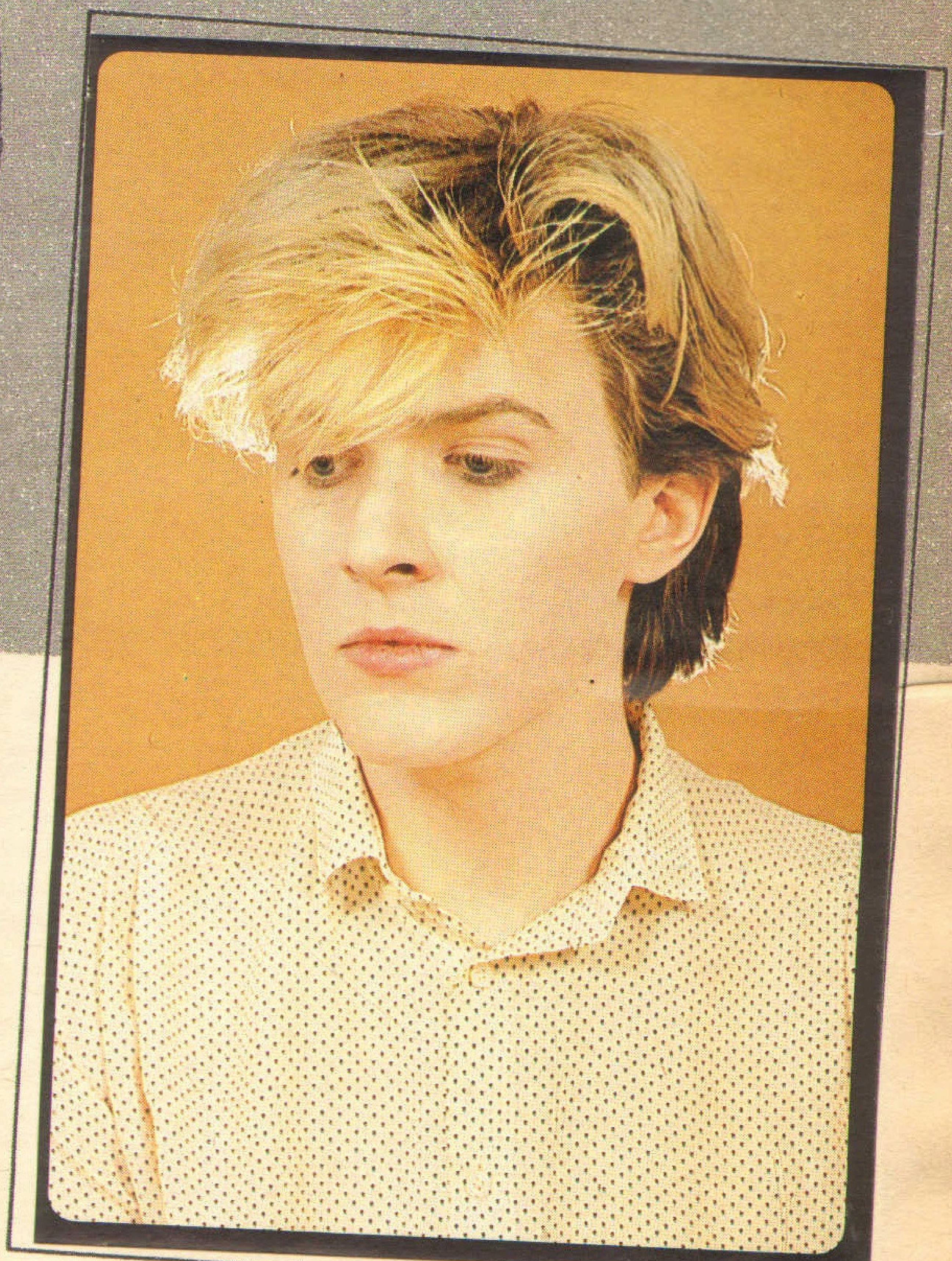
david bowie



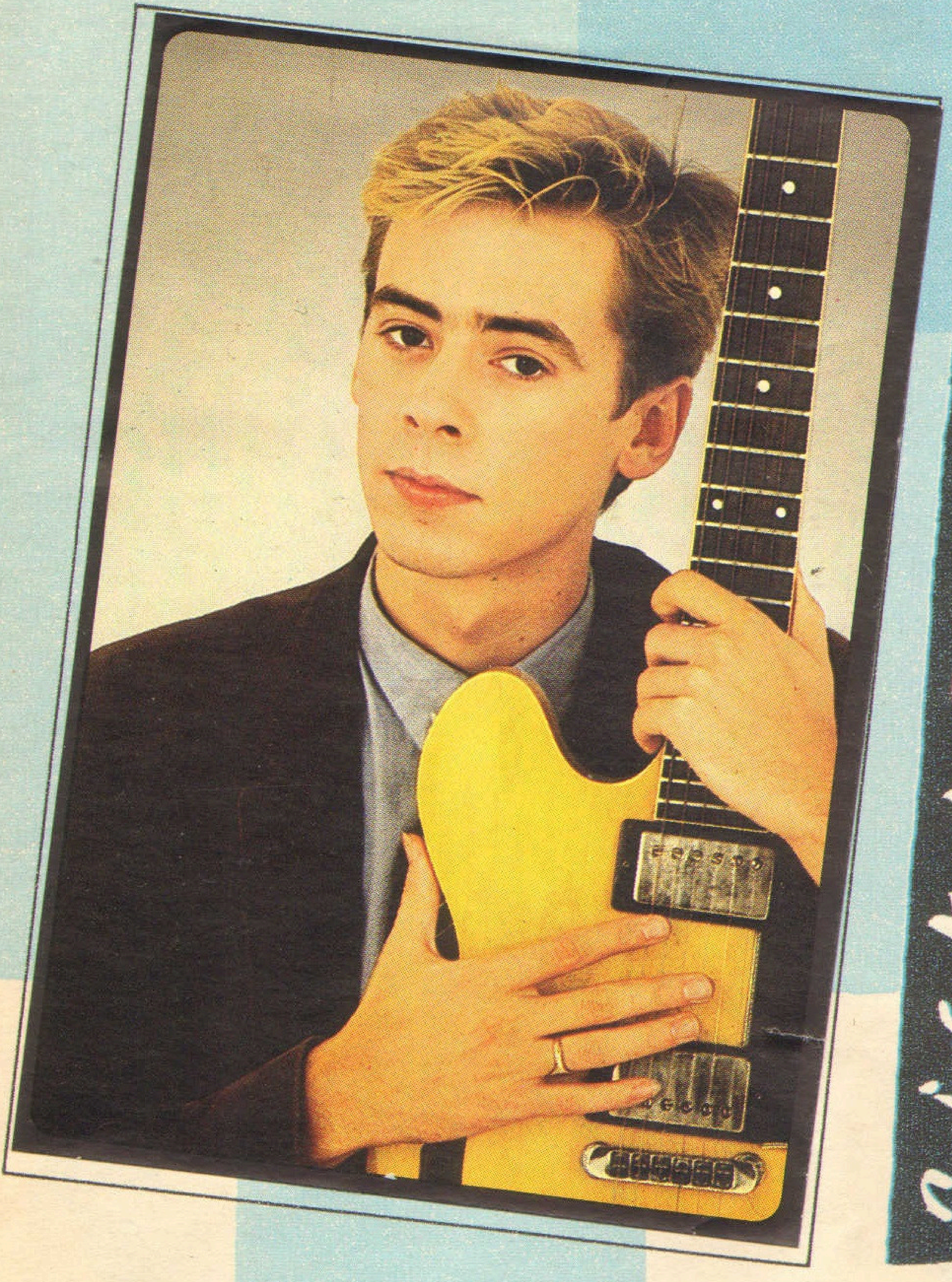
DAVID BOWIE: born Robert David Jones 8/1/47 in Brixton, London. Briefly commercial artist, released first pop single in 1963 though first hit not until 1969 with "Space Oddity". Always two steps ahead of the crowd, has been incredibly influential by pioneering mime, bisexuality, glamour and electronics. Aloof and classy.

DAVID SYLVIAN: born David Batt 20/5/61 in South London. Formed Japan who attracted ridicule by wearing make-up before hip and sounding not unlike Roxy Music. Undeterred, continued to refine elegant, atmospheric imagery until split on verge of major success due to friction with Mick Karn. Now working on "new challenges".

david sylvian



nick heyward



NICK HEYWARD: born 20/6/61 in Beckenham, Kent. Took up guitar at age 9 and writing at age 15. Worked as junior illustrator in commercial art for five years before forming Haircut 100. Instantly successful with clean cut pop and toytown image. Bubble burst but now has successful solo career in mellower vein.

ADAM ANT: born Stuart Goddard 3/11/54 in London. Written off as born loser of punk despite strong live following until teamed up with Marco Pirroni to launch Ant-mania with "good songs and lots of drums." Thoughtful teetotaller, is outspoken on show-biz values (eg spectacular "Prince Charming" revue) but at expense of credibility.

adam ant



HEAVEN 17



MARTYN WARE: born 19/5/56 in Sheffield. Former trainee Co-op manager and computer operator, left Human League Mk. 1 with Ian Marsh to form British Electric Foundation – production umbrella for projects like Tina Turner and Heaven 17. Like other two is sharp, funny and a committed socialist. Married to Karen.



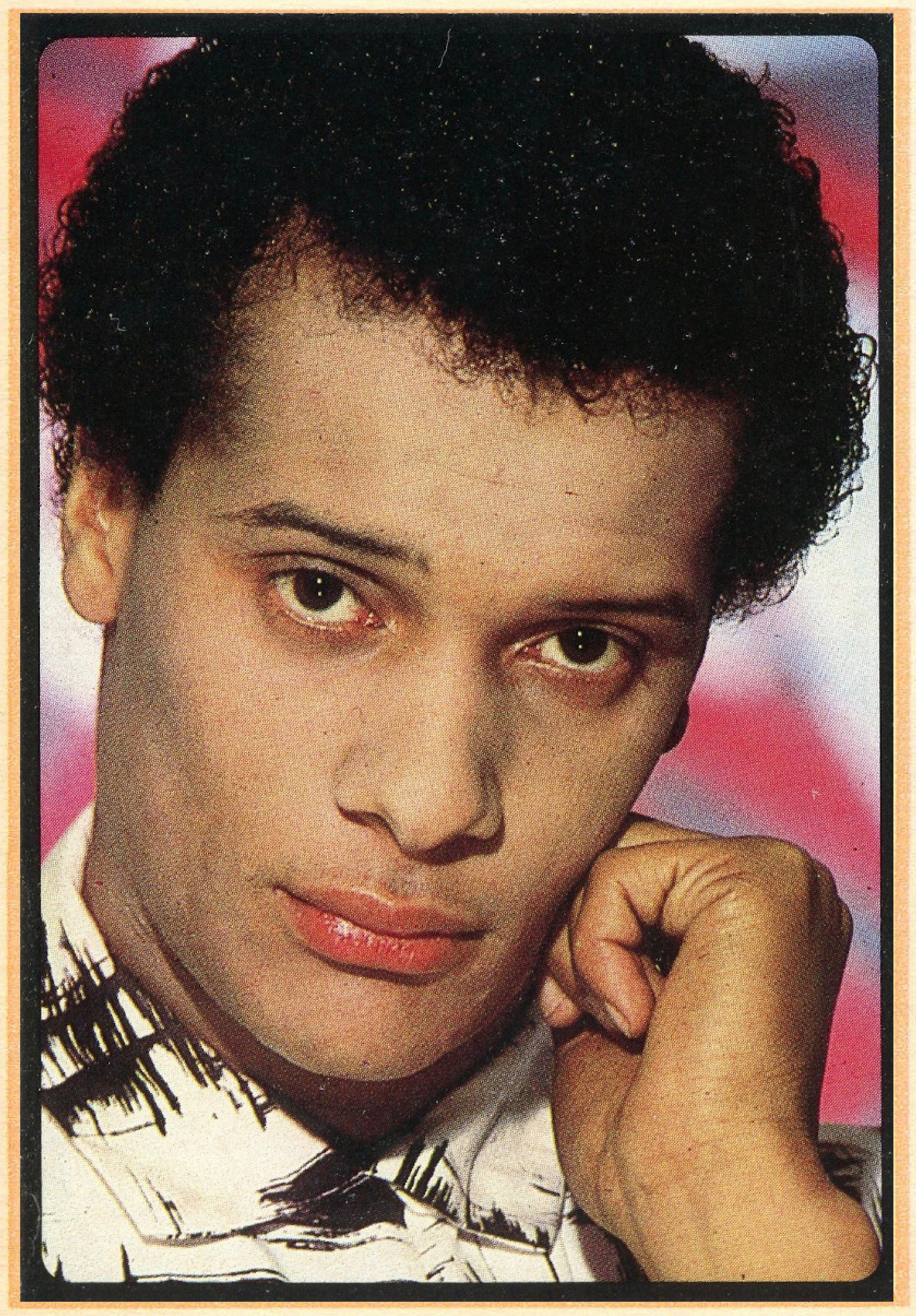


GLENN GREGORY: born 16/5/58 in Sheffield. Former stage hand and photographer, met Martyn Ware and Ian Marsh at Meatwhistle (arty drama centre) and was later recruited for new Heaven 17 trio. (Name is taken from fictitious combo in "Clockwork Orange".) Finally hit with seventh single "Temptation". Married to Sarah.

IAN CRAIG MARSH: born 11/11/56 in Sheffield. Former French polisher, fake astrologer and computer operator, was expelled from sixth form for being undesirable subversive element. Used handbuilt synthesisers in various groups evolving into Human League Mk.1 before departing with Martyn Ware in October 1980.

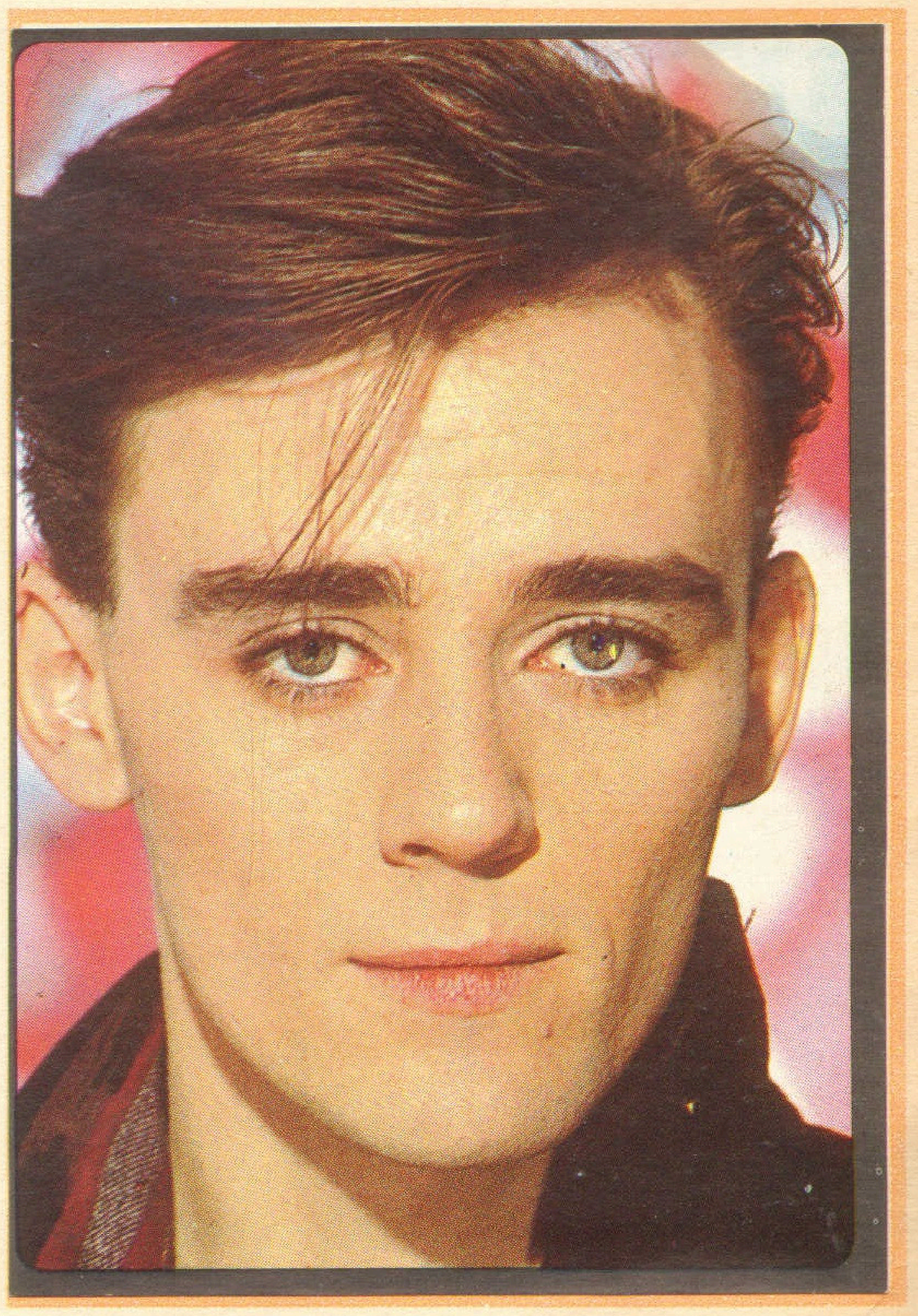
HEAVEN 17

MEL GAYNOR: born 29/5/60 in London. Latest recruit to Simple Minds and their fourth drummer. Very varied musical background – heavy rock with Samson, funk with Light Of The World and sessions with everyone from Imagination to Elkie Brooks, Associates to The Nolans. Arrived to help on "New Gold Dream" LP and stayed.

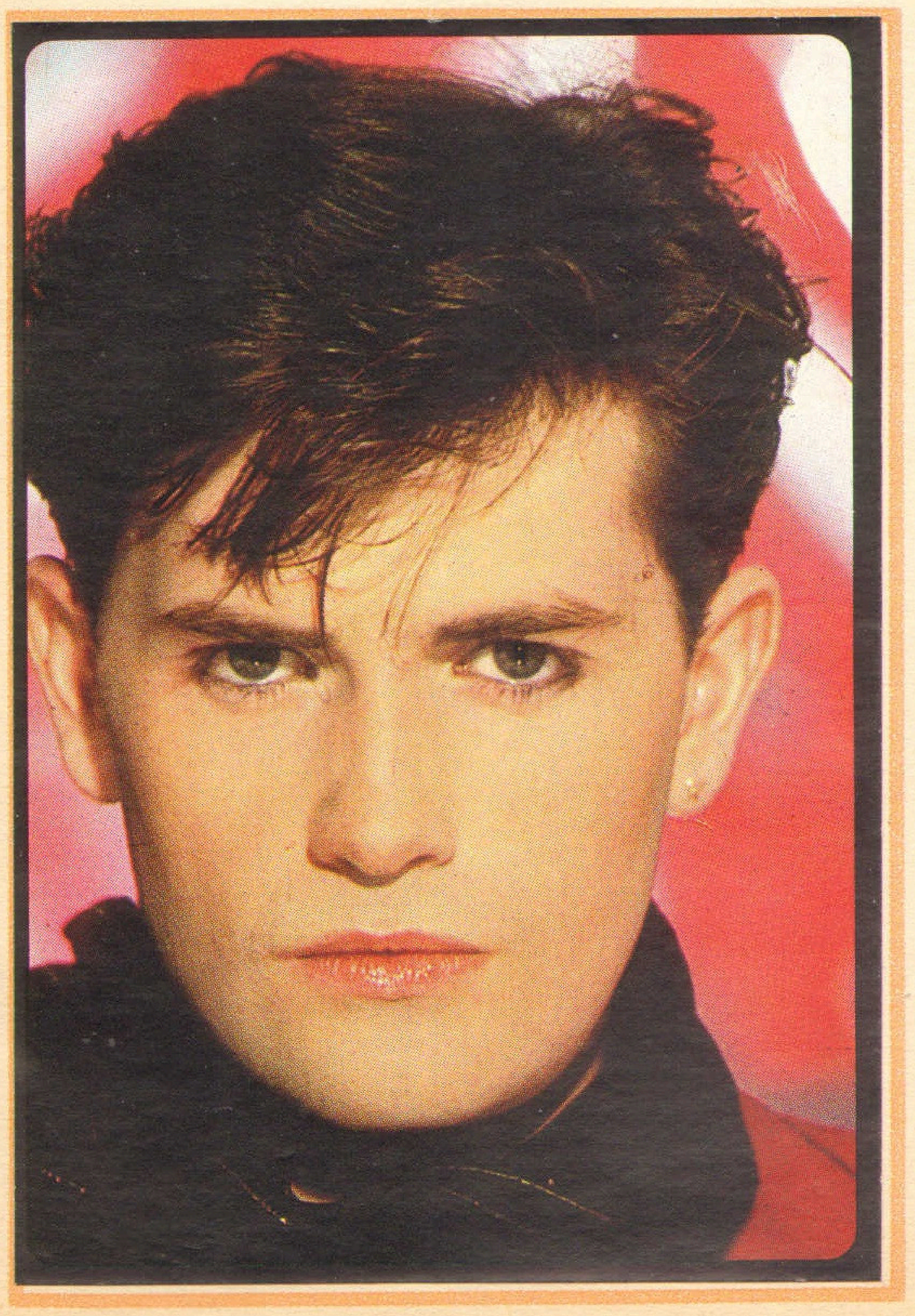


SIMPLE MINDS

MICHAEL McNEILL: born 20/7/58 in Glasgow. Of Highland parents, took up accordion at age 9 and with brother Danny formed group called The Barnets to play local dances. Now plays a wide range of keyboards and integral part of distinctive sound. Quietest member, but with rest of Simple Minds contributes to writing music.



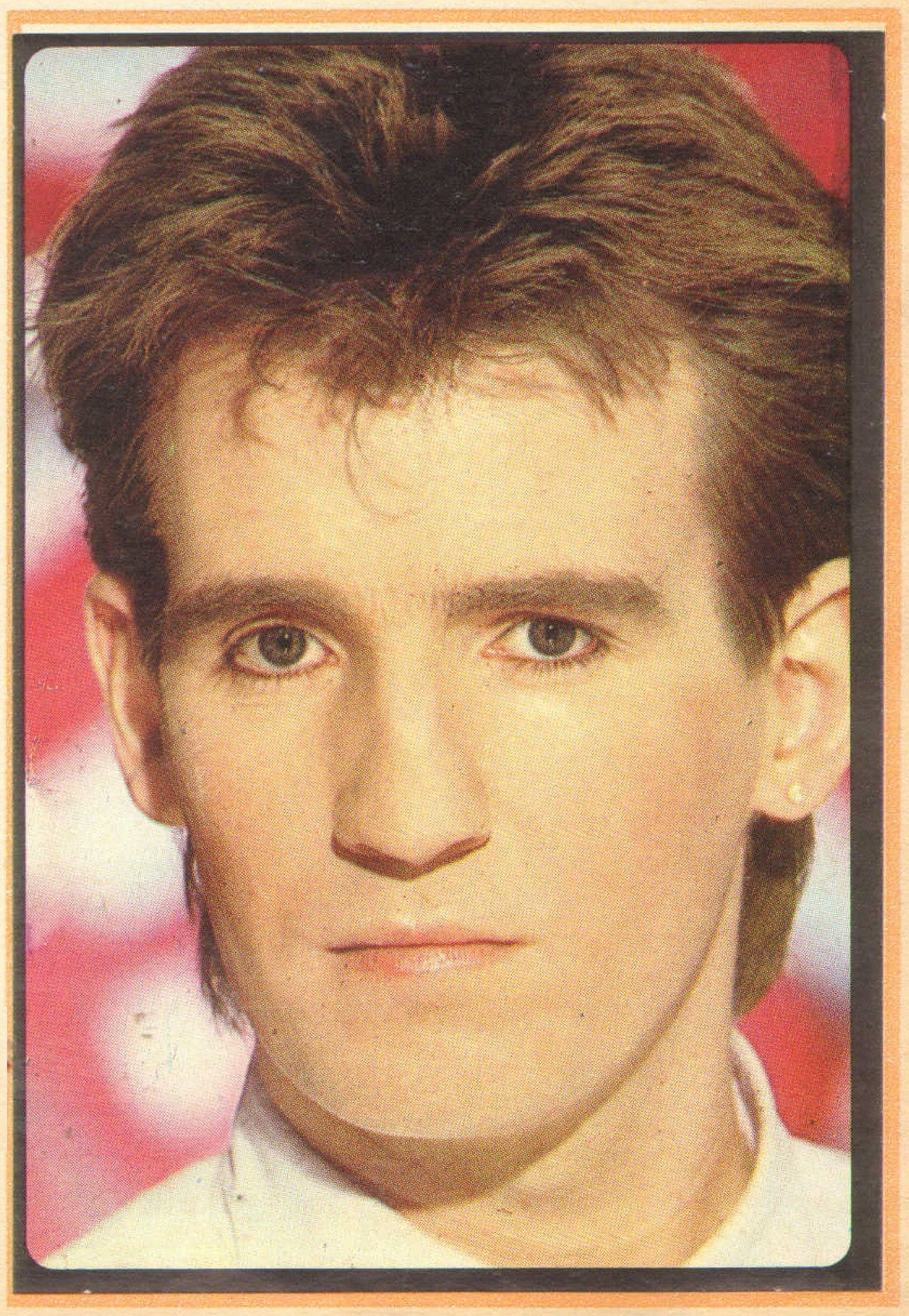
CHARLES BURCHILL: born 27/11/59 in Glasgow. Long time friend of Kerr, with same musical tastes – Bowie, Roxy Music, Velvet Underground, better progressive groups – and together hitched round Europe. Also shares musical and emotional need for adventure. Guitarist and violinist, is cheerful and unassuming character.





JIM KERR: born 9/7/59 in Glasgow. One of few in class to pass engineering exam but decided future lay elsewhere. Formed school band who evolved into Simple Minds and established following on basis of quality music. Always conscious of need to move on, lyricist and vocalist Kerr remains restless dreamer.

DEREK FORBES: born 22/6/56 in Glasgow. Previously guitarist with pop-rock band The Subs before completing line-up as bassist in 1978. Simple Minds then established strong following through blend of Old and New Wave though not until "Promised You A Miracle" that finally connected with wider public. Forbes is band's comedian.



SPANDAU BALLET

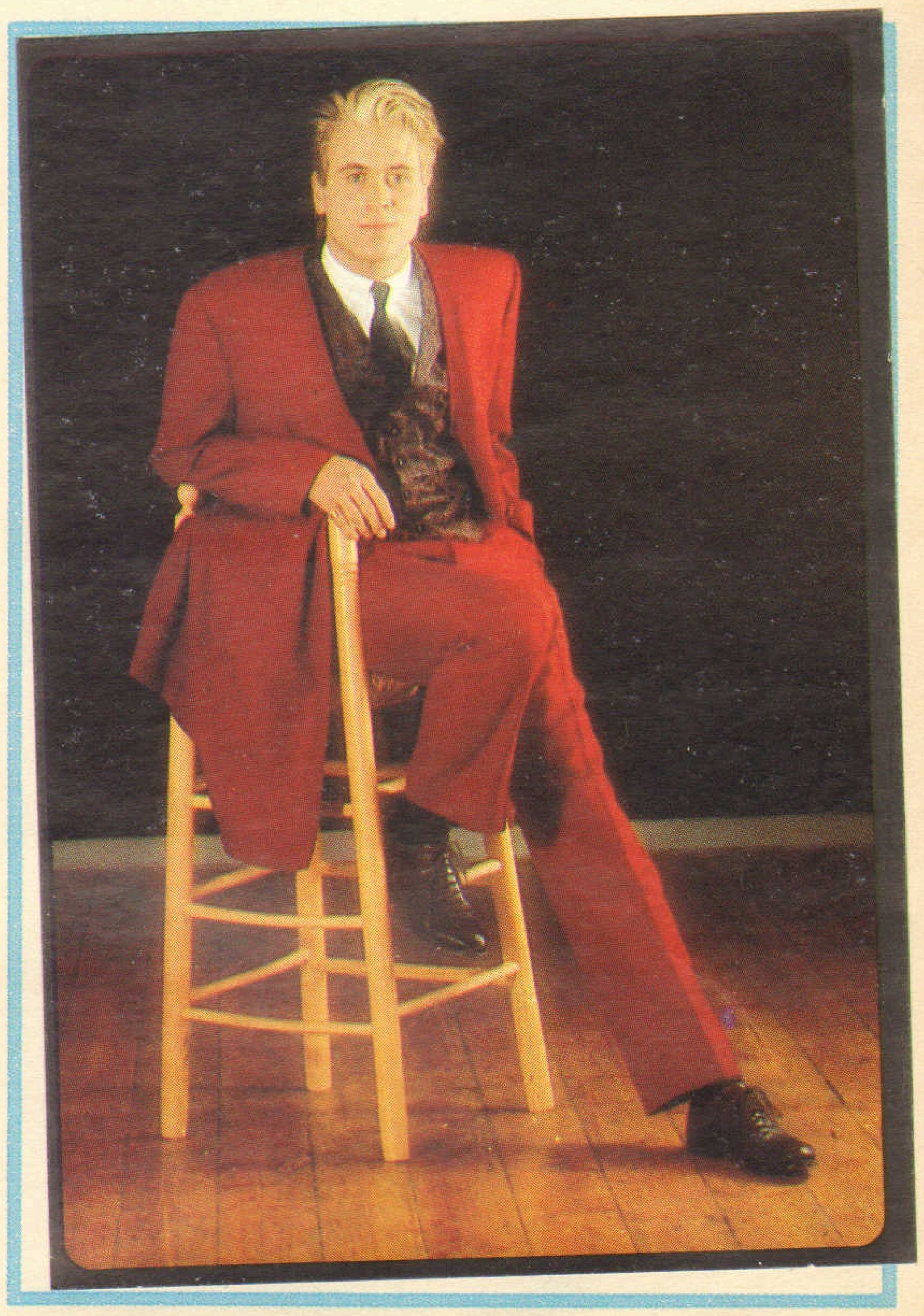
TONY HADLEY: born 20/6/60 in North London. Won talent contest at age 14 with own versions of "You Are The Sunshine Of My Life" and "With A Little Help From My Friends." Voice now main Spandau Ballet trademark. Strength of band in friendship based on same background and interests. Married to Leonie.

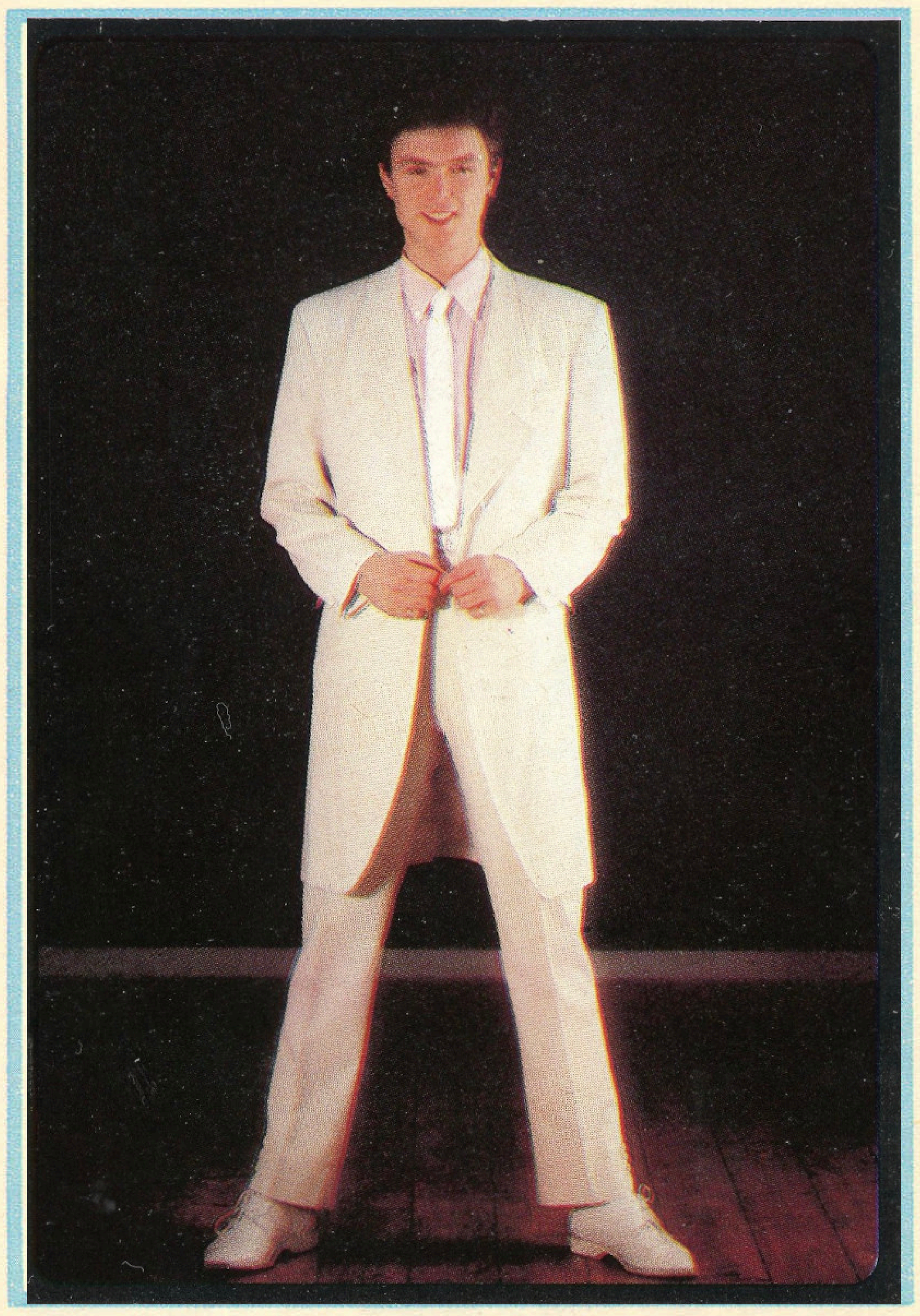




MARTIN KEMP: born 10/10/61 in North London. Promising schoolboy footballer – trained with Arsenal. From age 9 attended – with brother Gary – children's acting school, winning minor TV roles from "Jackanory" to "Play For Today". Last member to join, replacing bassist Richard Miller in pre-Spandau pop band The Makers.

STEVE NORMAN: born 25/3/60 in North London. Most typifies working class London lad in search of good life, but has developed well as musician (guitar, percussion, sax) and understands importance of music. Previously in print trade for two years but always wanted to be famous. Photographer.





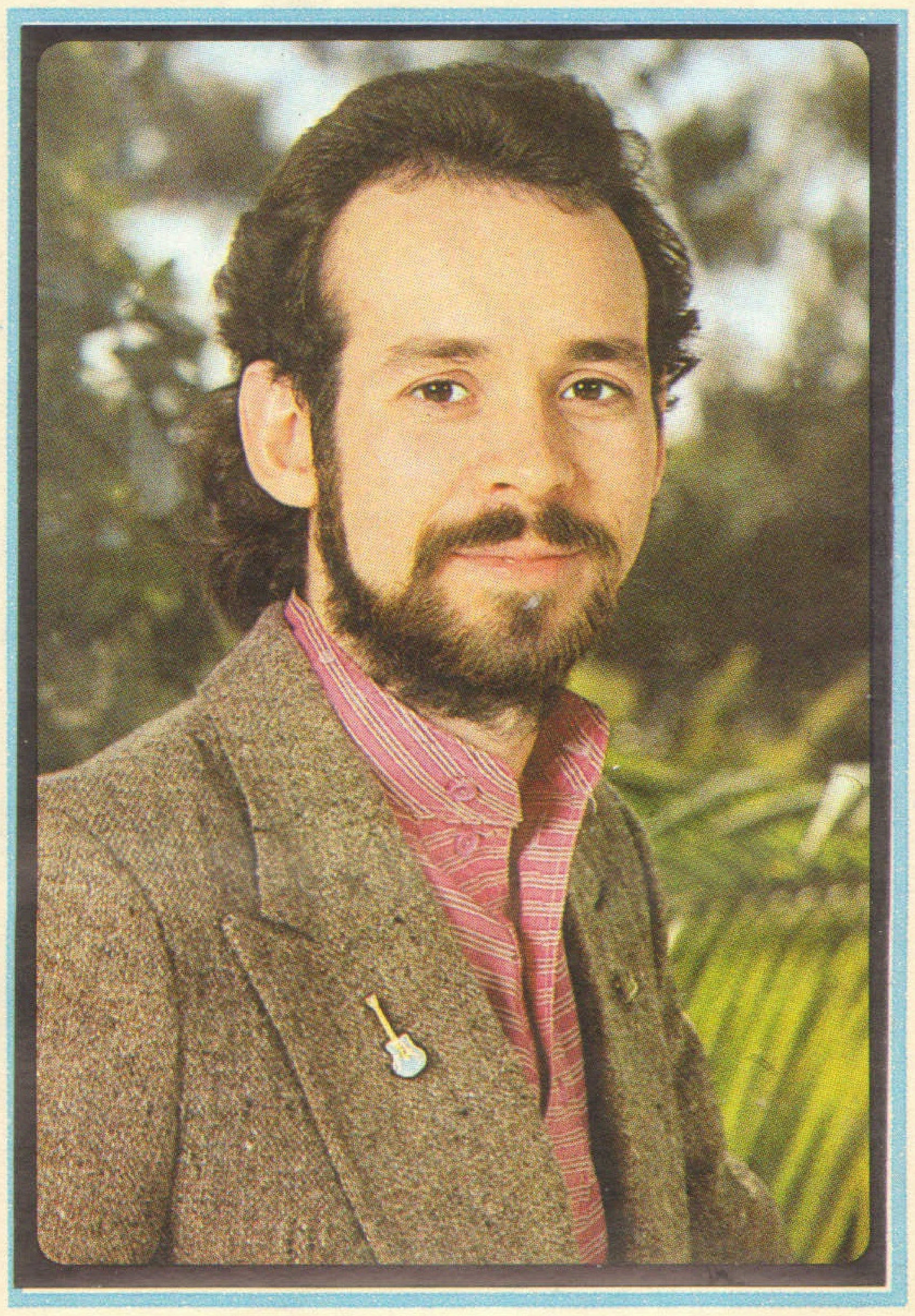
GARY KEMP: born 16/10/59 in North London. With manager Steve Dagger, did most to hatch out Spandau career plan of selling exclusivity and glamour. Started by making soundtracks for their New Romantic clubs as contrast to punk but smart enough to move on to funk direction – legacy of soul boy youth.

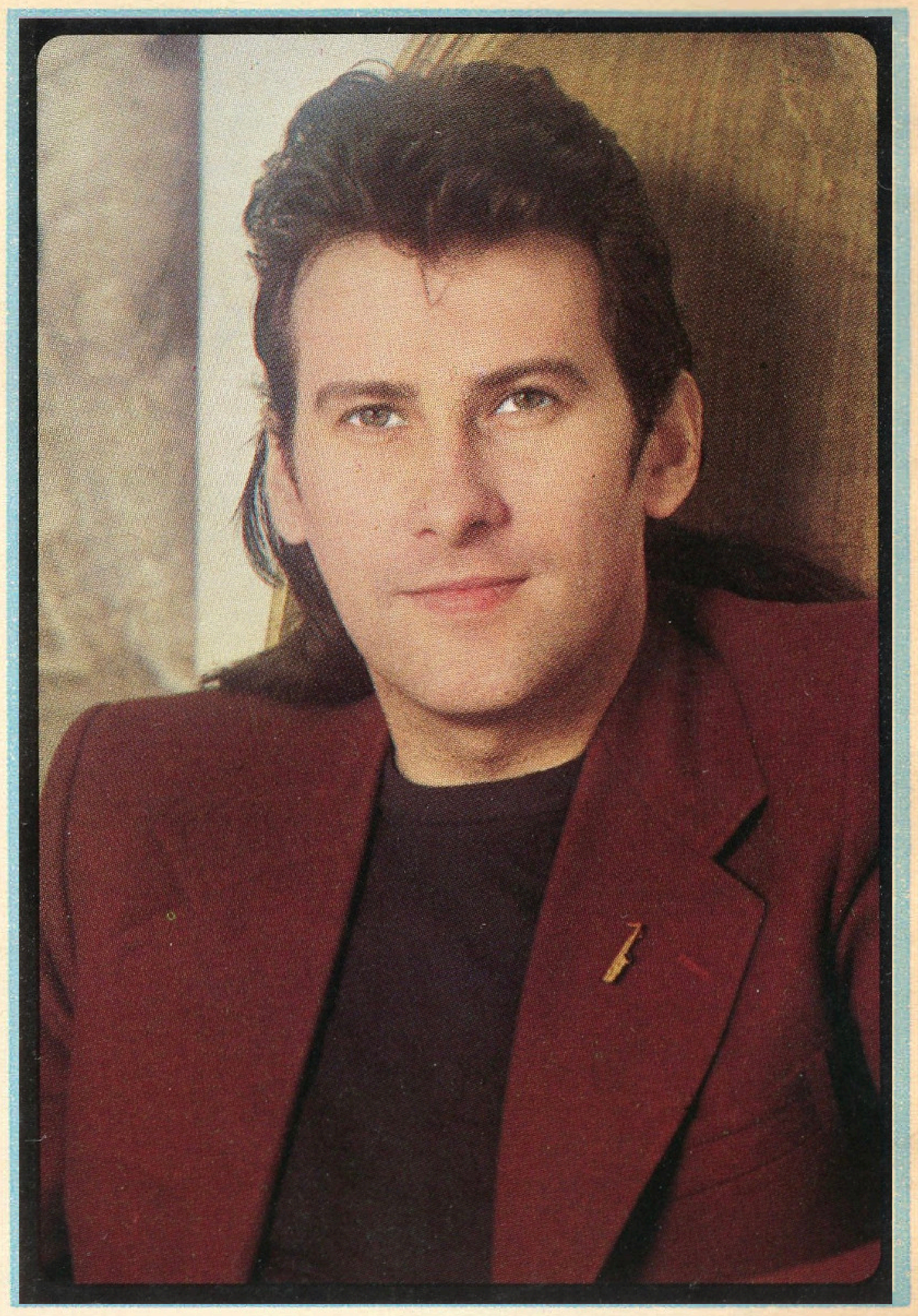
JOHN KEEBLE: born 6/7/59 in North London. Claims to be as interested in cars, cricket, girls and fashion as pop. Drummer since primary school, sees Spandau mostly as better way of earning a living than any other job – previously worked on Foreign Exchange counter at bank and as occasional long distance lorry driver.



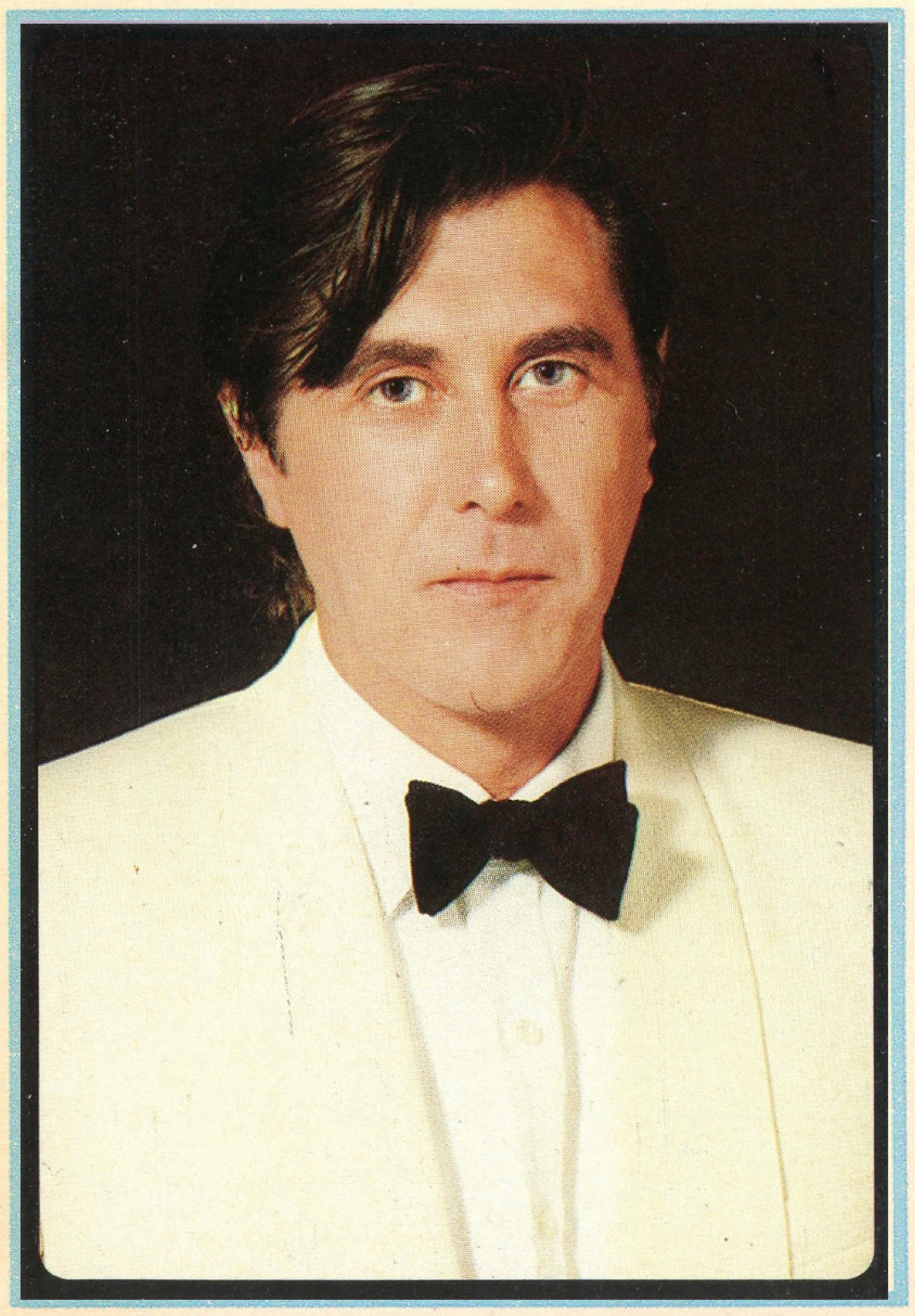
ROXY MUSIC

PHIL MANZANERA: born Philip Targett-Adams 31/1/51. Raised in Cuba and S. America before coming to London at age 15. Master of varied guitar styles, replaced David O'List in original Roxy line-up. After five albums, band tried trial separation in 1975 but reformed in 1979 for renewed success. Several solo LPs.

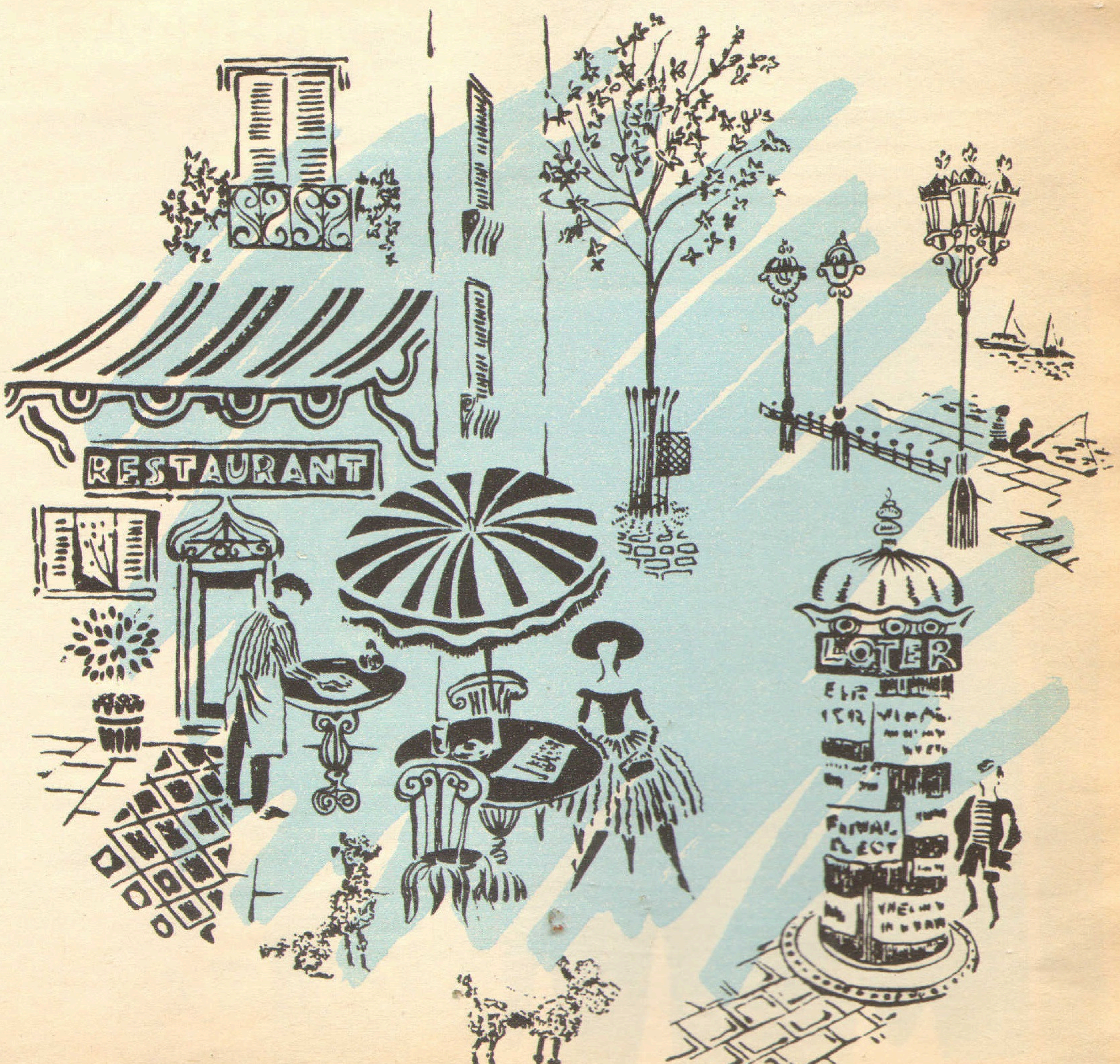


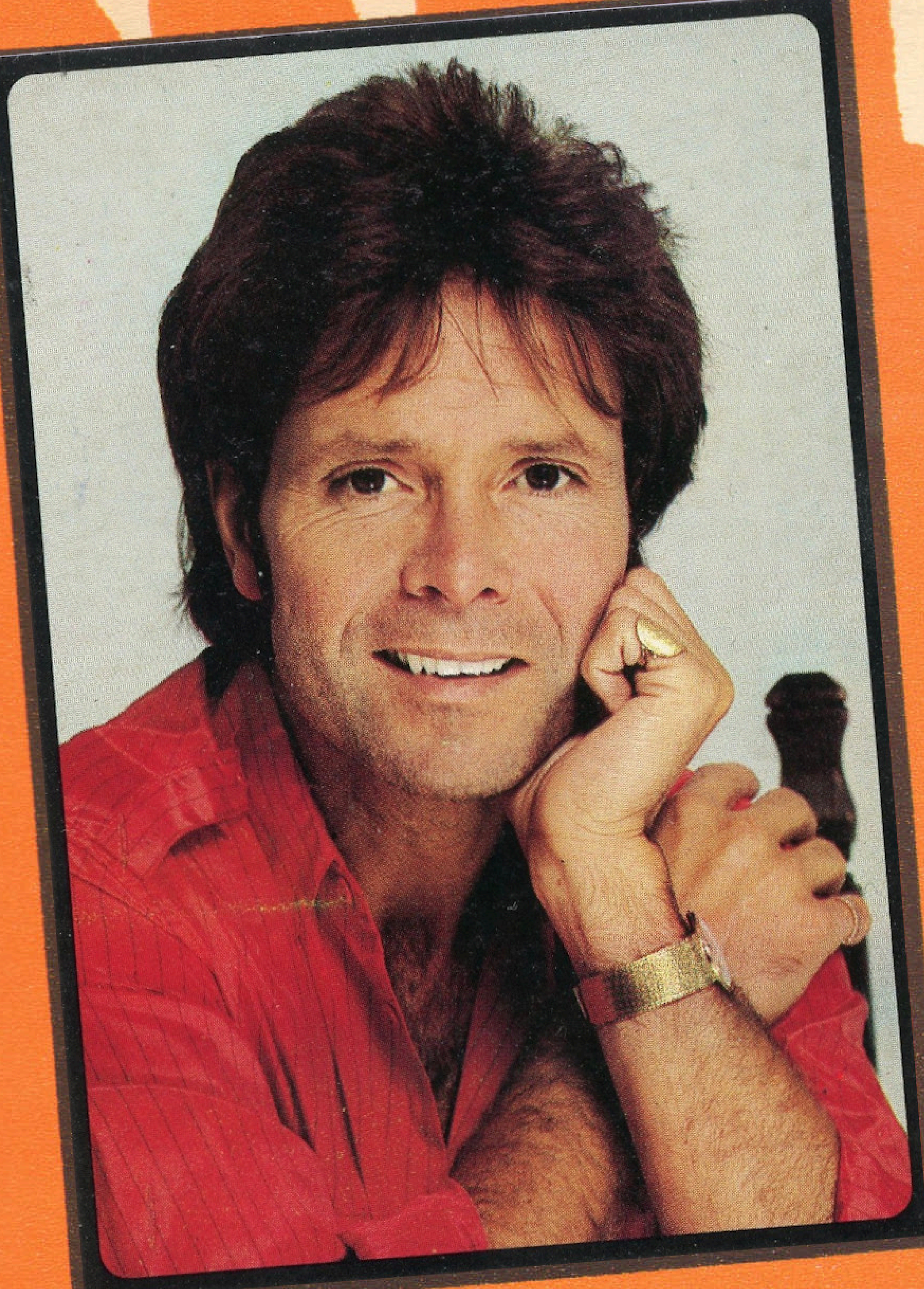


ANDY MACKAY: Born 23/7/46. Joined Roxy Music in 1971 after studying avante-garde music in England and electronic music pioneers in Italy. Other original members were Paul Thompson (drums) and Eno (electronics). Has recorded several solo albums including the music for "Rock Follies" TV series.



BRYAN FERRY: born 26/9/45 in Co. Durham. Son of a miner, moved to London to teach art. Formed Roxy Music in 1971 – bizarre mixture of camp glamour and space age crooning. Instant success and extremely influential. Now musical perfectionist and supreme stylist, alternates Roxy Music with solo career of revamped oldies.





CLIFF RICHARD

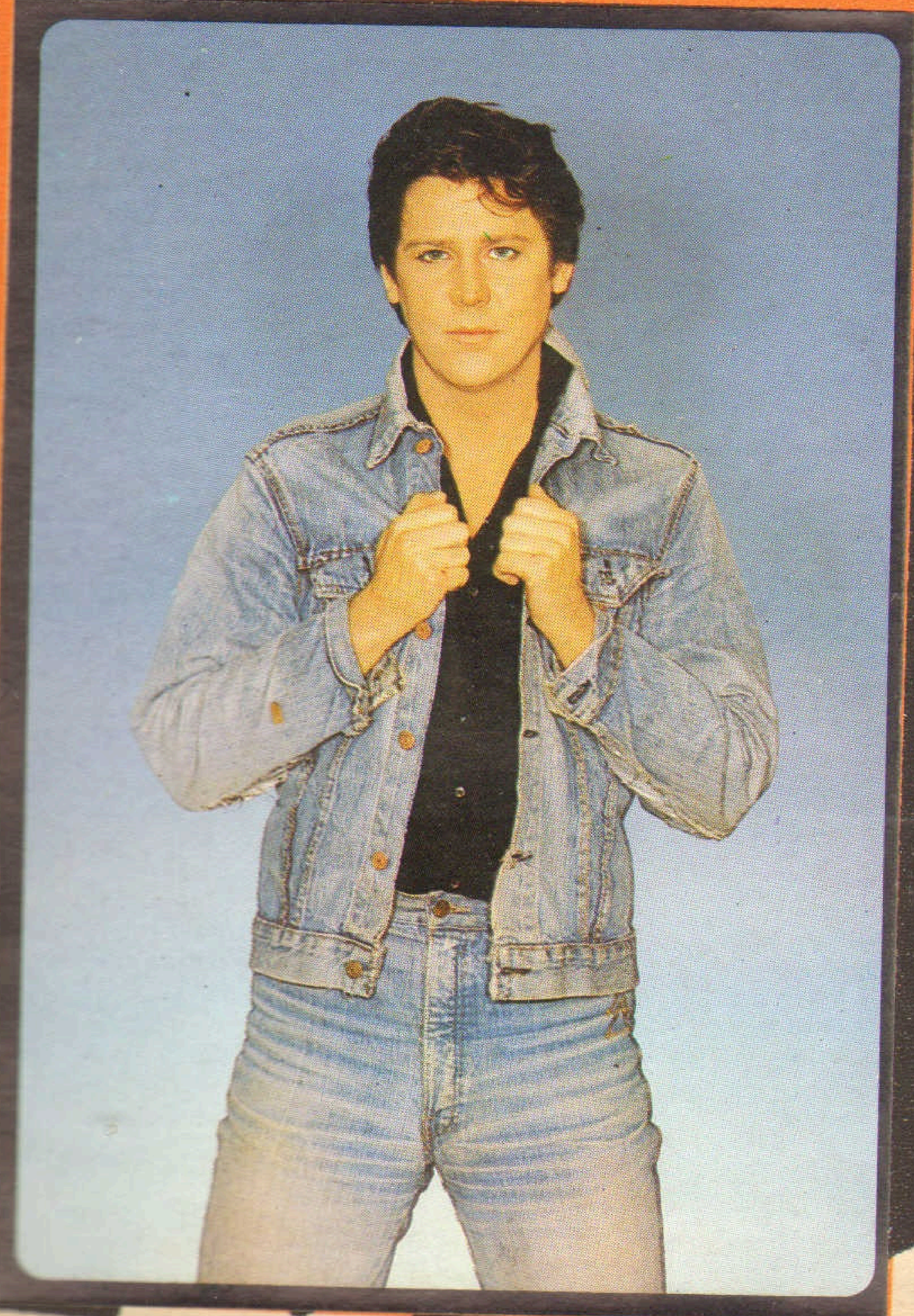
CLIFF RICHARD: born 14/10/40 in Lucknow, India, but raised in Herts. First record "Move It" went to No. 2 in September 1958 to be followed by twenty five years of consistent hit making, initially with group The Shadows. Also involved in films, notably "Summer Holiday". Moved from rock'n'roll to religion and crafted MOR.

DAVID ESSEX



DAVID ESSEX: born David Cook 23/7/47 in East London. Apprentice engineer, started as drummer before launched as singer without results. Had better fortune in theatre, starring in "Godspell". Big break came with 1974 film "That'll Be The Day" for which wrote huge "Rock On" hit. Has since drifted between films, theatre and charts.

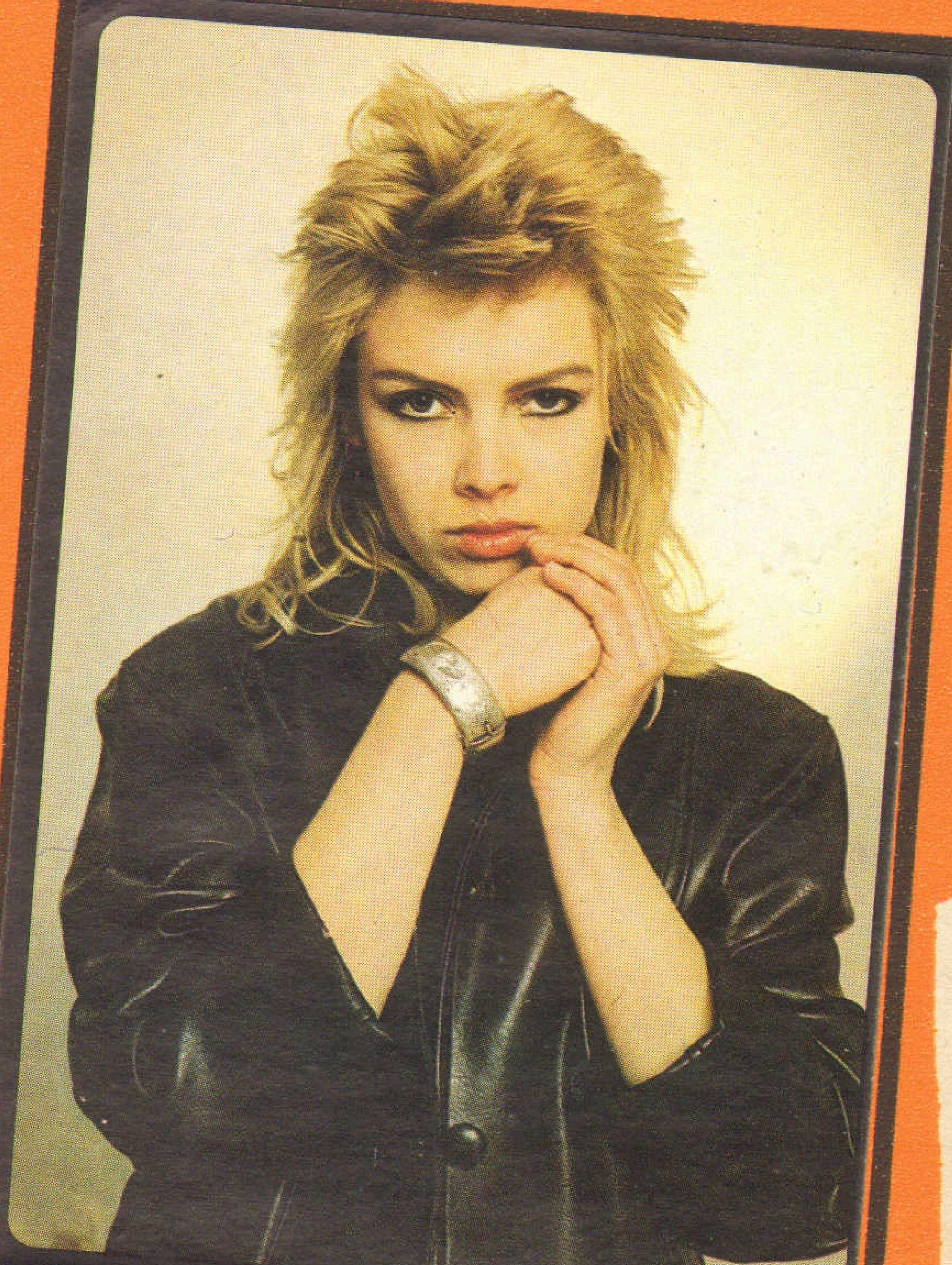
SHAKIN' STEVENS: born Michael Barrett 4/3/48 in Cardiff. Youngest of eleven children. Developed insatiable appetite for rock'n'roll and formed band with Sunsets after brief job as upholsterer. Starred in "Elvis" musical during barren 70s before hits came in 80s with safer pop formula.



SHAKIN' STEVENS

KIM WILDE

KIM WILDE: born 18/11/60 in Herts. Showbiz family – dad Marty ('50s singer) writes lyrics, brother Ricky (failed child star) writes music and produces. Always wanted to be singer to escape routine. Art school graduate, is sensible, self-possessed and quietly positive. Nobody's fool.



SIOUXSIE AND·THE BANSHEES



ROBERT SMITH: born 21/4/59 in Sussex. Schoolfriends' co-operative in Crawley evolved into The Cure in 1978, with longstanding drummer Lol Tolhurst. Immediate acclaim for melancholy melodies. Helped out Banshees on 1979 tour, joining permanently after John McGeoch left. Also in offshoot band Glove.

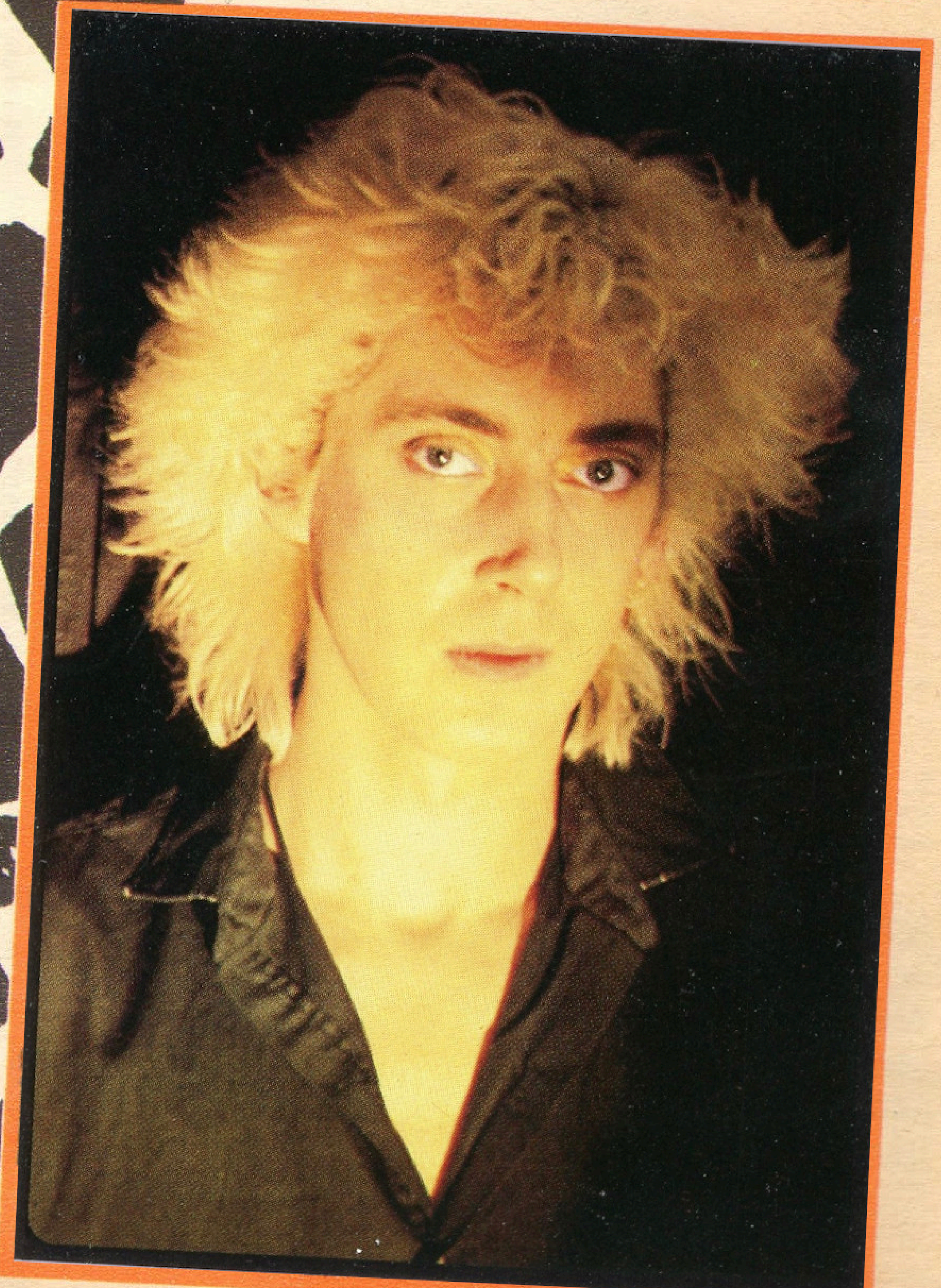
STEVE SEVERIN: born 25/9/55 in North London. Seduced from schoolwork by Bowie, Roxy Music and Can. Spent three years in mundane jobs before forming Banshees, whom he named. Success of band due to rapport with fans rather than music business. Also in offshoot band Glove with Robert Smith.

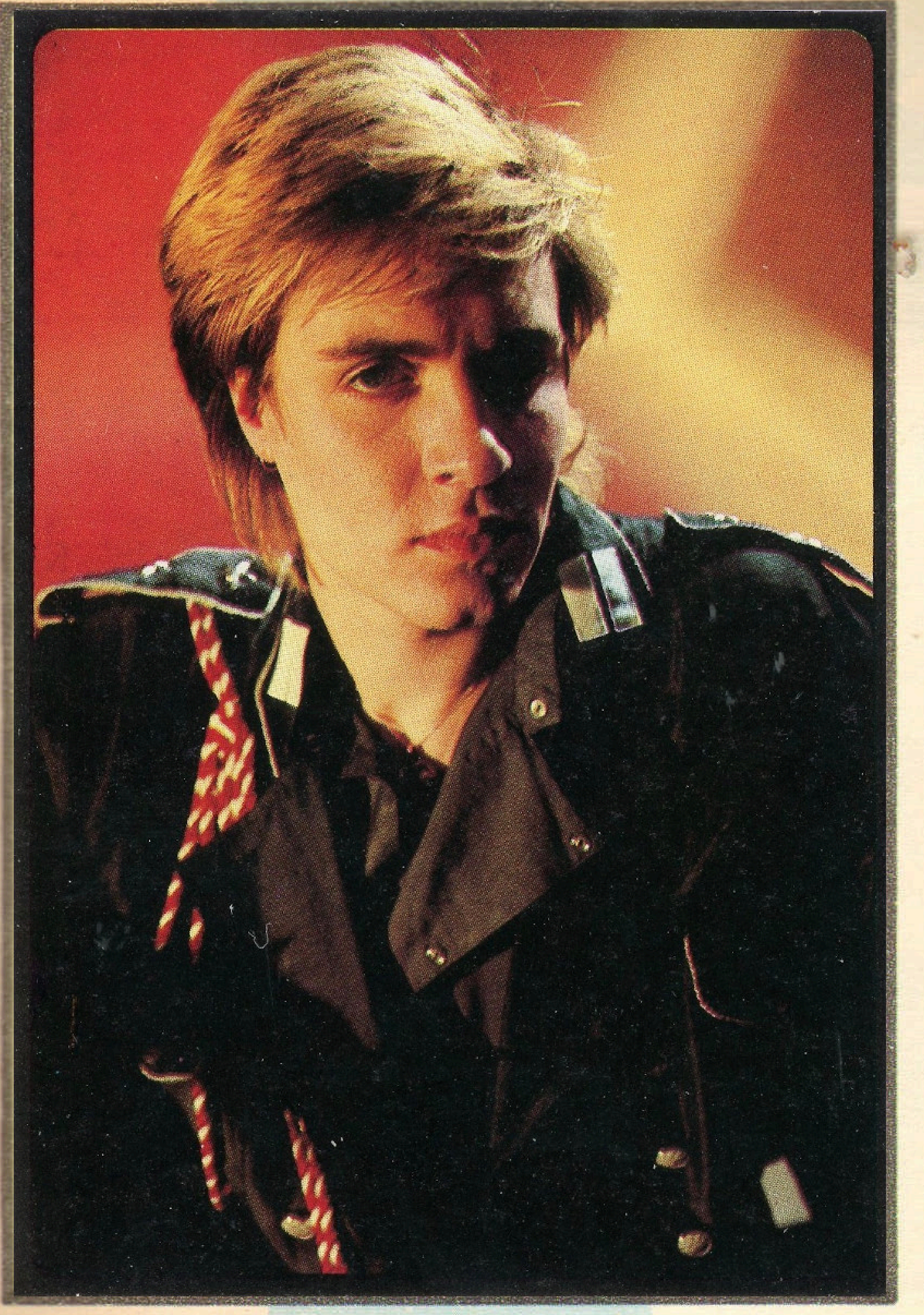




SIOUXSIE: born 27/5/57 in London. Misfit at school, was working as waitress when met Steve Severin – both Sex Pistols fans. First Banshees gig included Sid Vicious on drums and Marco Pirroni on guitar performing 20 minute version of Lord's Prayer. Threatening image now mellowing. Also in The Creatures.

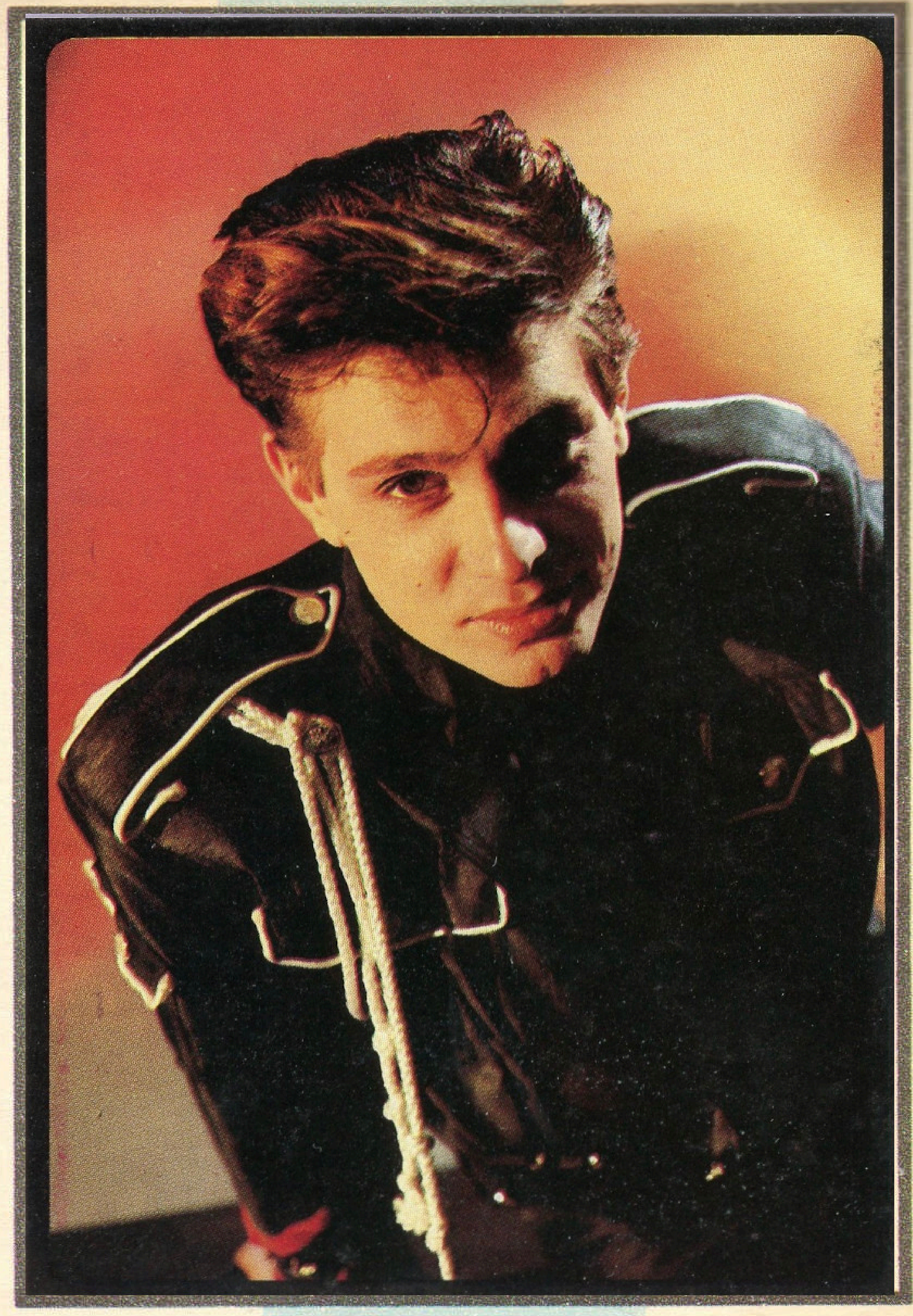
BUDGIE: born 21/8/57 in St. Helens, Lancashire. Moved to Liverpool, joined Spitfire Boys in 1977. Moved to Big In Japan then The Slits in 1979 before joining Siouxsie & The Banshees following departure of Kenny Morris and Pete Fenton in mid-tour. Also in voice/percussion duo The Creatures with Siouxsie.





SIMON LE BON: born 27/10/58 in North London. Parents encouraged showbiz directions – appeared in Persil TV ad at age 5. Was studying drama in Birmingham when recommended to budding Duran Duran by barmaid! Previous jobs for group's lyricist include tree surgeon and hospital porter.

duran duran

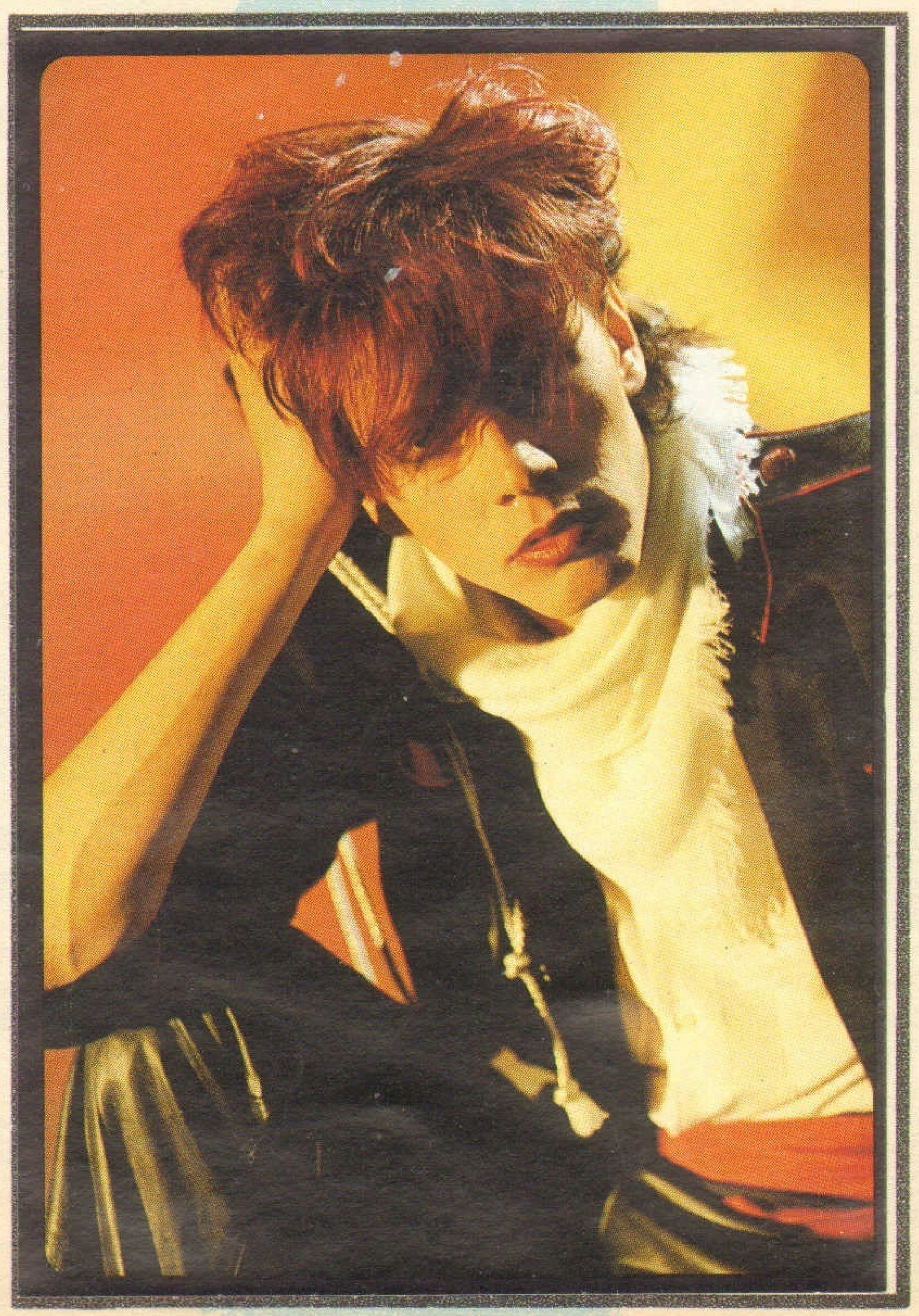


ROGER TAYLOR: born 26/4/60 in Birmingham. Began banging knitting needles on pots at age 10. Drummed in local punk bands before joining up with John and Nick (whom met in squat) in late 1978 for first Duran Duran line-up. Quiet and shy, is very much the anchorman. Also has the hairiest legs in group!



ANDY TAYLOR: born 16/2/61 in Cullercoats, near Newcastle. Recruited into band via music paper advert – guitarist with over 600 gigs experience. (None of the Taylors are related.) The clown of the band, also owns restaurant in Whitley Bay called Rio. Married hairdresser Tracey Wilson in July 1982.

JOHN TAYLOR: born 20/6/60 in Birmingham. Took up guitar at age 17 and switched to bass at 19 after hearing Chic. With Nick, founder member of group who took name Duran Duran from mad scientist in spoof science fiction film "Barbarella". Frank, unaffected and good humoured – in fact, all round good guy.





NICK RHODES: born Nicholas James Bates 8/6/62 in Birmingham. Keen on art, band's keyboard player is happiest in the studio. During break from Duran session, produced Kajagoogoo LP after approach by Limahl. Co-founder of group with John; earliest line-up was two bass players, clarinetist and drum machine!

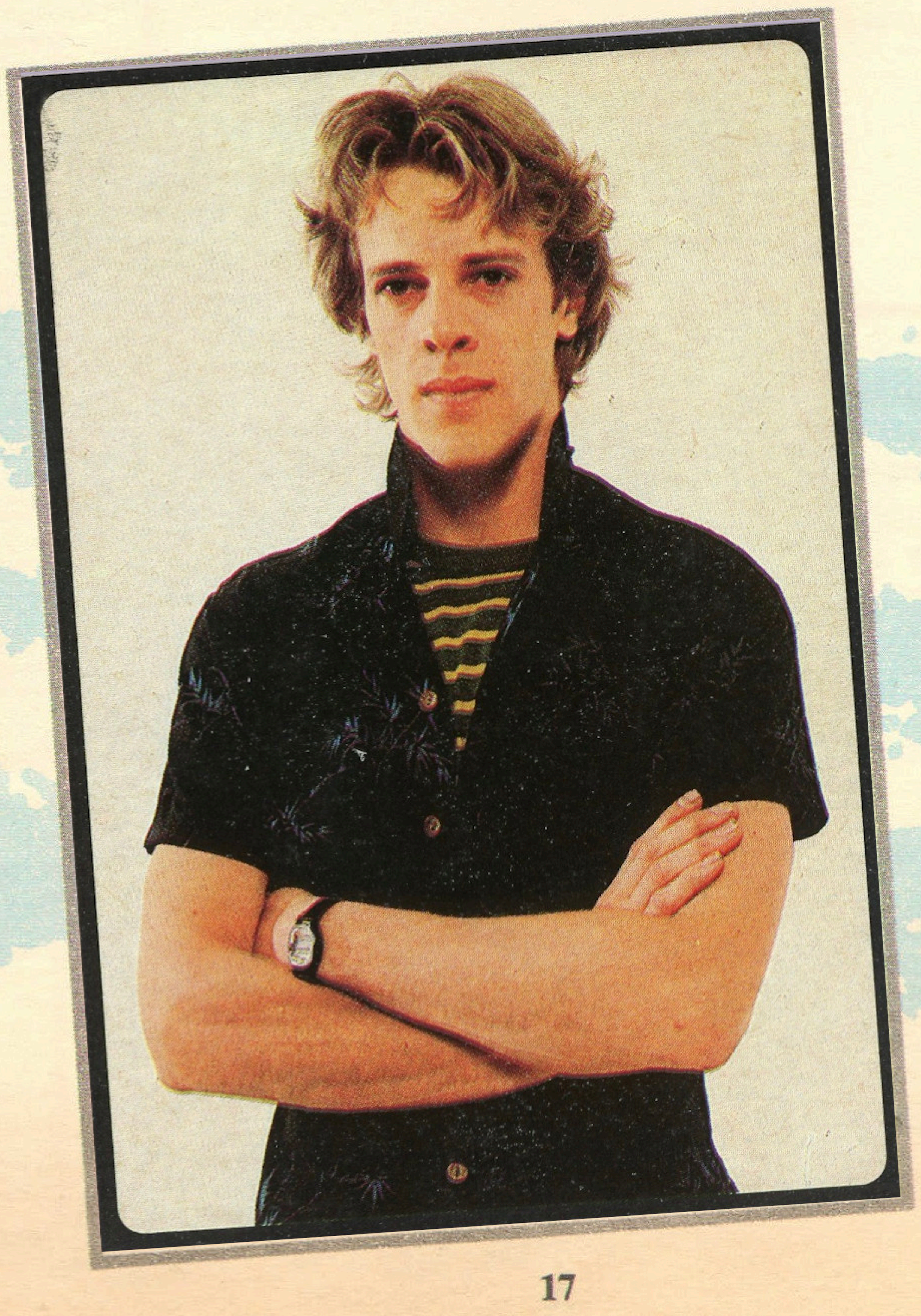
THE POLICE



ANDY SUMMERS: born 31/12/42 in Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs., but grew up in Bournemouth where joined first band. As befits architect of The Police's sound, has very varied tastes and background. Enjoyed challenge of punk and welcomes reggae. Top rate guitarist, good photographer and amusing character.



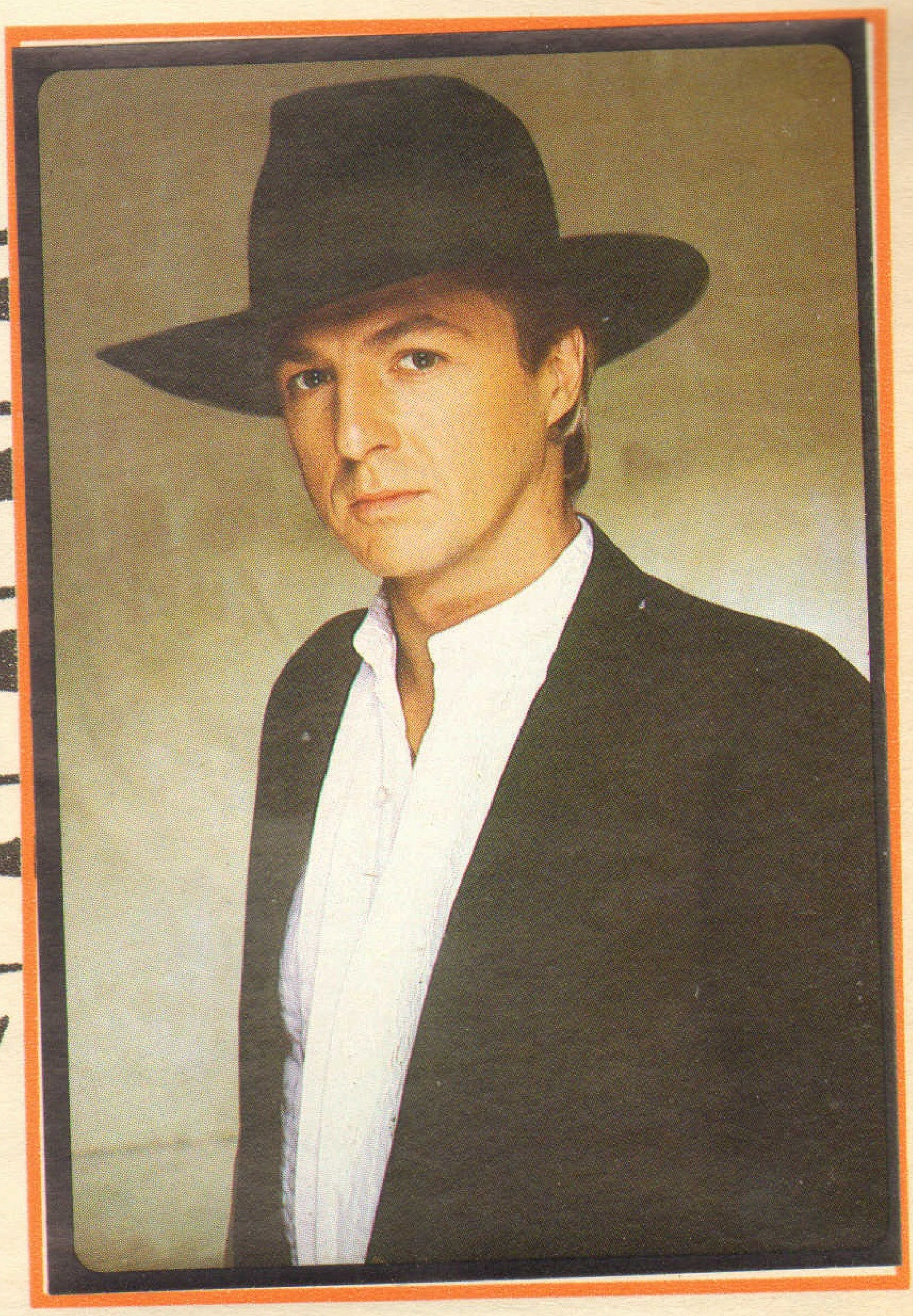
STING: born Gordon Sumner 2/10/51 in Newcastle. Was bassist in jazz-rock band Last Exit when spotted by Stewart Copeland. Previous jobs included teacher and labourer. Band survived initial hard times by doing anything – dyed blonde hair came from chewing gum advert. Shrewd, articulate socialist with acting ambitions.

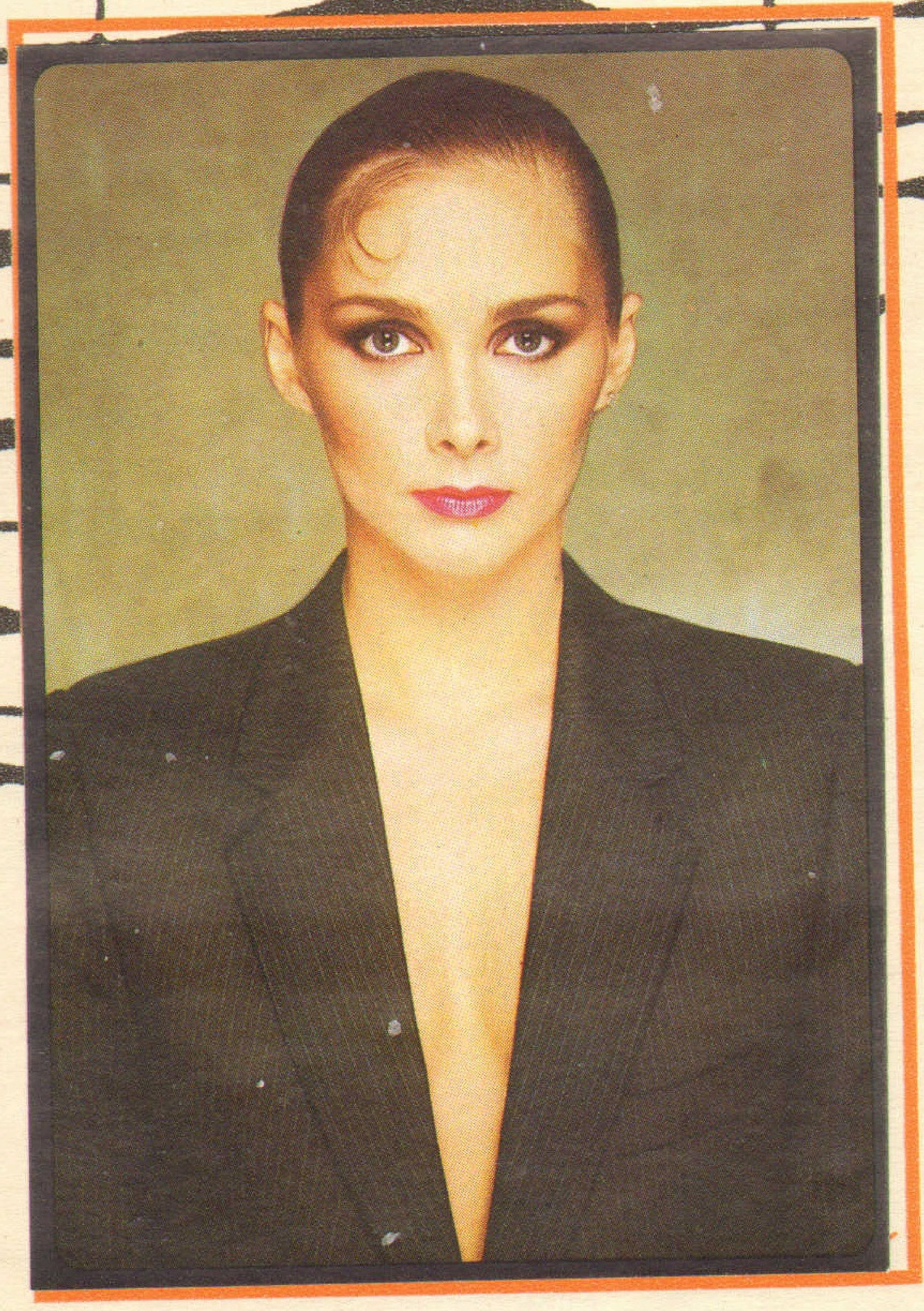


STEWART COPELAND: born 16/7/52 in Alexandria, Virginia, USA; educated in England. (Manager is brother Miles). Quit progressive rock band Curved Air in 1976 to start The Police. Drive and enthusiasm crucial; also wrote early material until Sting blossomed with Andy's arrival, displacing three chord Henry Padovani on guitar.

bucks fizz

BOBBY GEE: born Robert Gubby 23/8/61 in London. Multitude of previous jobs including own building company at age 18. Played guitar in clubs and cabaret; all set to tour with "Jesus Christ Superstar" when auditioned for Bucks Fizz at father's suggestion. Married to Jackie with sons James and Matthew.



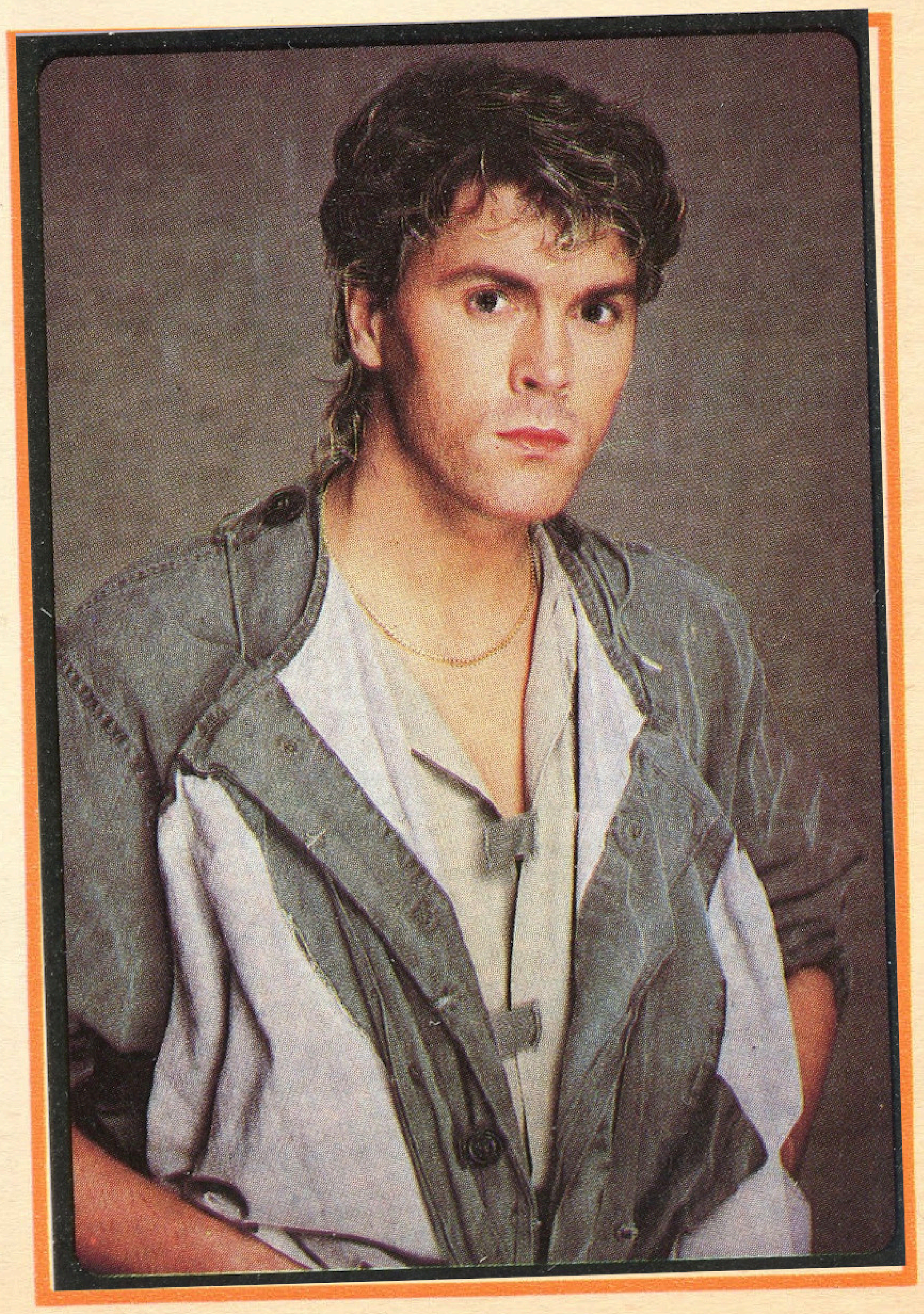


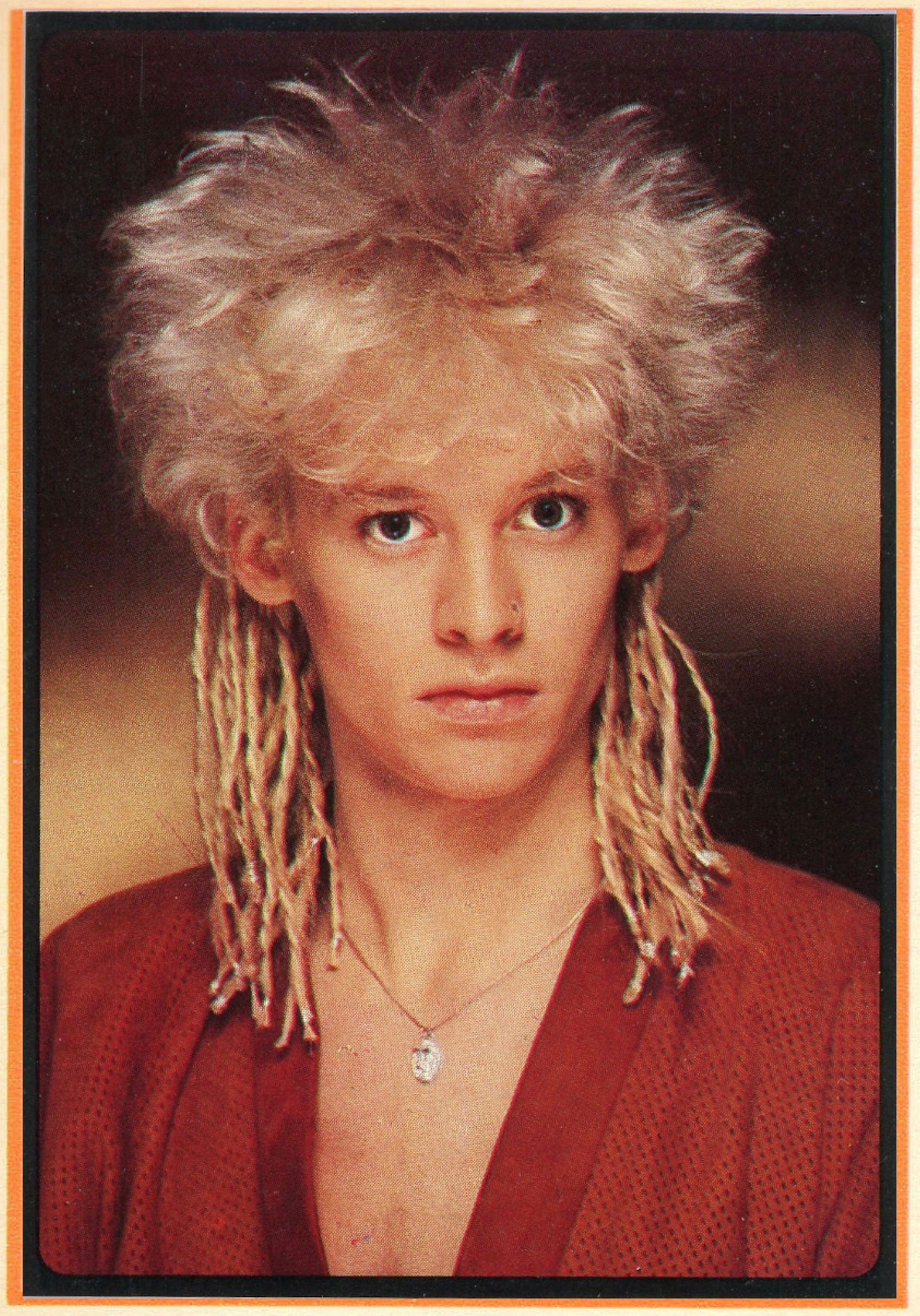
CHERYL BAKER: born 8/3/54 in East London. Was in several hopeful bands (one with DJ Mike Read) before joining Freddie Starr's backing band in Blackpool who evolved into Eurovision winners CoCo. Involved in several other Eurovision bands; final fling turned out to be Bucks Fizz! Scatterbrain of the group.



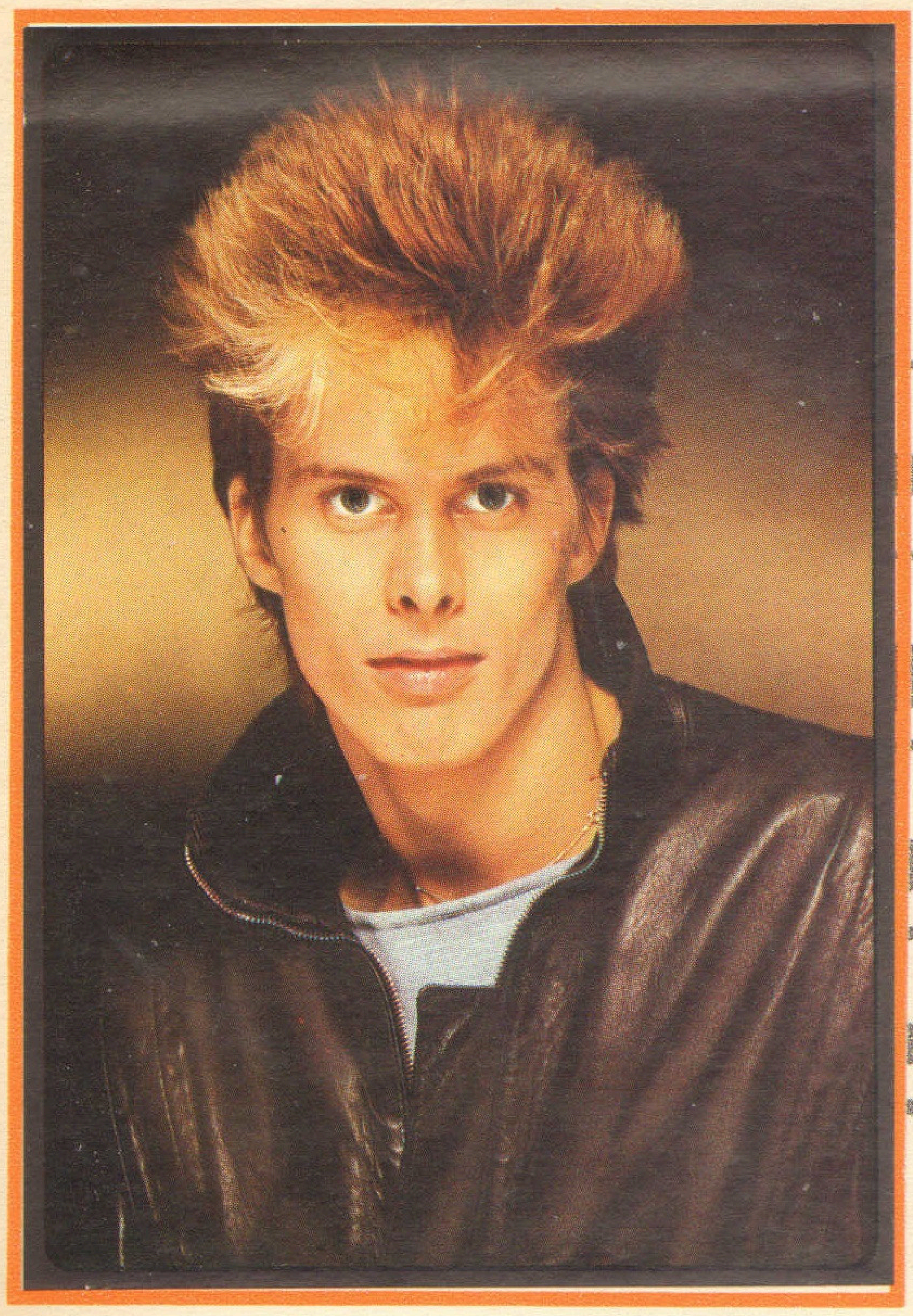
JAY ASTON: born 4/5/61 in London. Took acting and dancing lessons as child but missed so much school that decided to attend stage school. From theatrical family; started professional dancing in cabaret age 14. Working as singer/dancer in Jersey when asked to join Bucks Fizz. Animal crazy, keep fit mad.

MIKE NOLAN: born 7/12/54 in Dublin; came to England when young. Played guitar in pubs and auditioned for groups. Remembered from one unsuccessful audition and Bucks Fizz was built around him. After worked so well in Eurovision victory, band decided to stay together and forge identity with quality MOR.





NICK BEGGS: born 15/12/61 in Winslow, Bucks. Bassist, turned down school prefectship so could keep hair long. Vocalist in original pre-Limahl four piece; chose name Kajagoogoo because meant nothing. Closest to Limahl and describes sacking as "business decision". Vegetarian and devout Christian.

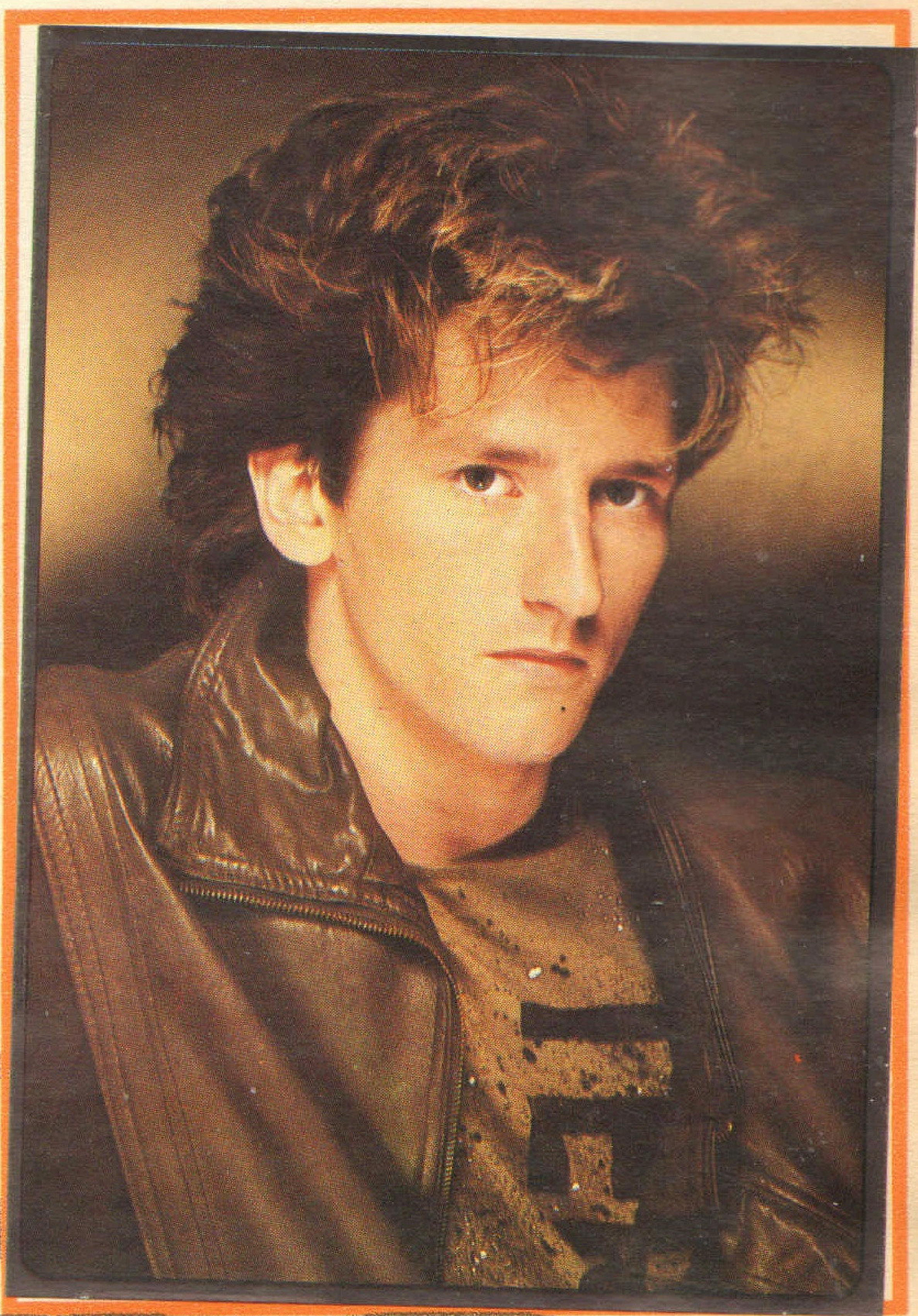


JEZ STRODE: born 17/1/58 in Luton. Kajagoogoo drummer's previous jobs include engineer, freezer centre manager. With other three, formed experimental band Art Nouveau for two years, doubling as cabaret group The Handstands so could buy own equipment. Placid type who enjoys food and moving around.

STEVE ASKEW: born 9/12/57 in London. Kajagoogoo guitarist's previous job was sign writer for seven years. Used to share house with Nick and Jez. Wants future band emphasis to be on musicianship, not out and out pop. Gentle, trustworthy scatterbrain who likes quiet life and hates rock mentality.



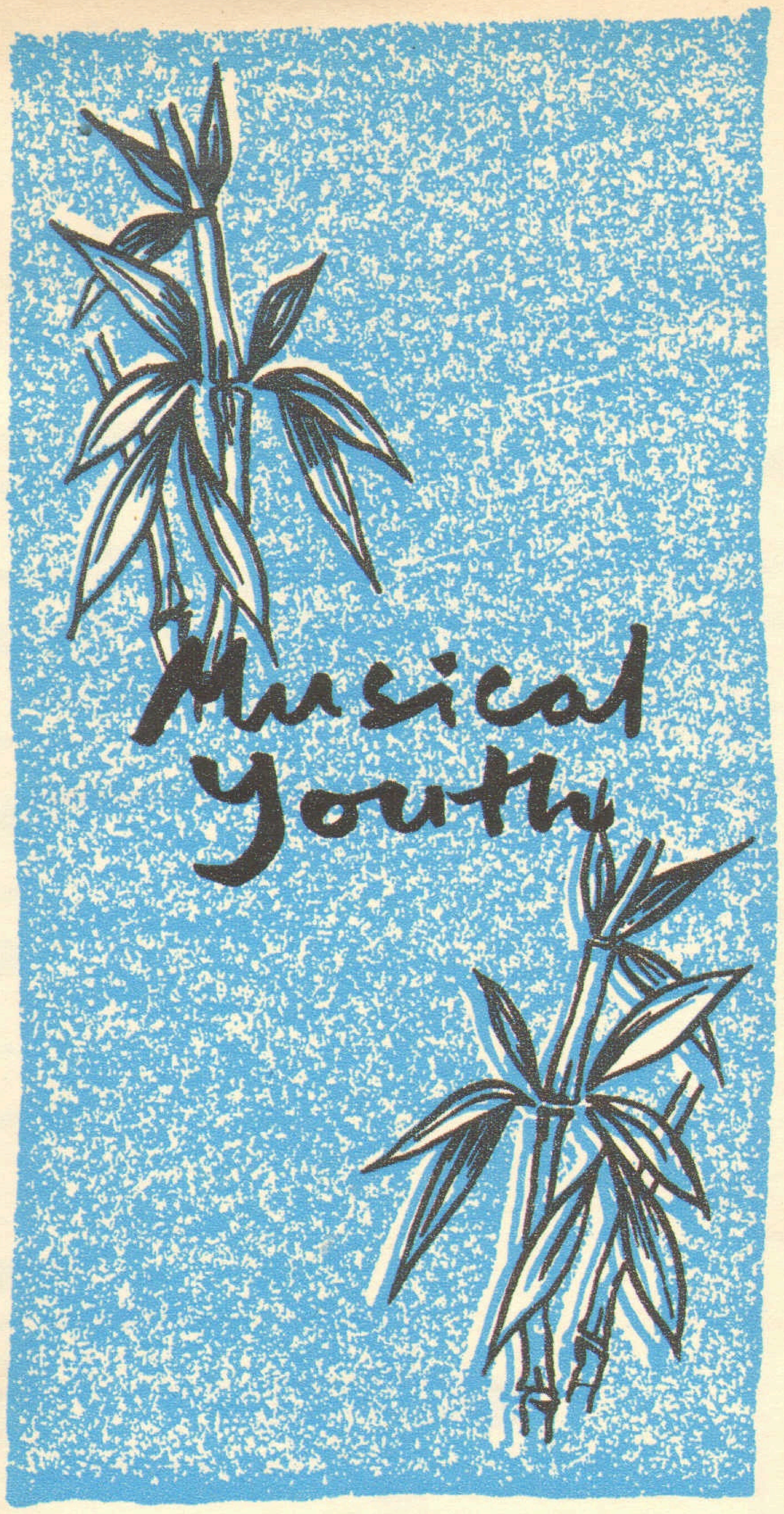
STUART CROXFORD NEALE: born 5/8/60 in Leighton Buzzard, Beds, where band now based. From musical family, went to Royal College of Music at age 12. Kajagoogoo synth player's previous jobs include working in piano, bread and brick factories. Odd man out – drinks alcohol, eats meat. Has sense of humour and willpower.



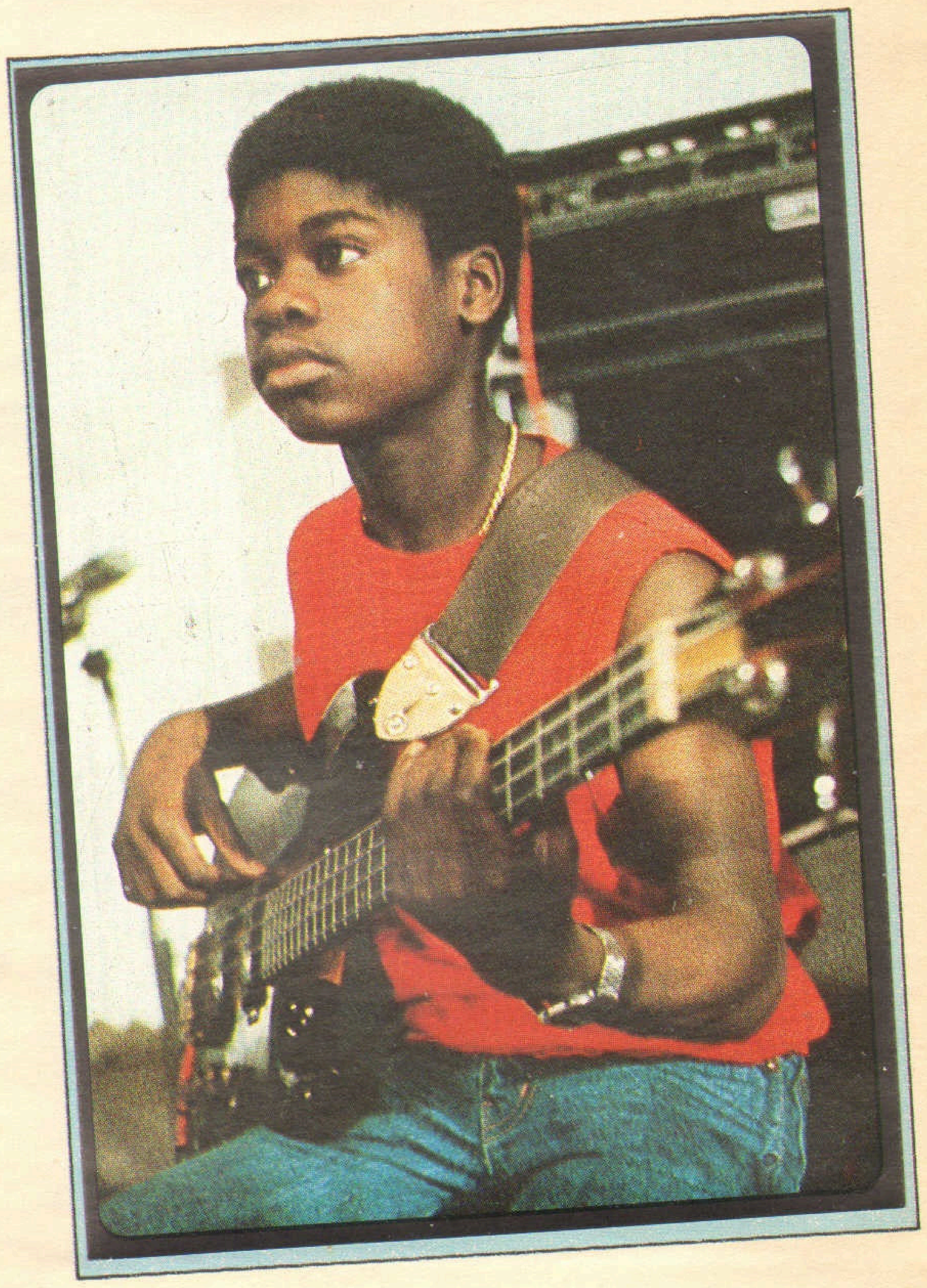
KAJAGOOGOO

JUNIOR: born Frederick Waite (Jr.) 23/5/67 in Birmingham. Father Frederick Waite (Sr.) instrumental in starting band by teaching music in local community centre. Drummer Junior lists Sly Dunbar, Aswad and Black Uhuru as favourites. Interested in making electronic things work and aims to run own garage.





PATRICK: born Patrick Waite 16/6/68 in Birmingham. Another son of former lead singer with Jamaican band The Techniques and consequently brother of Junior. Bass player, lists Aswad, Black Uhuru and Sugar Minott as favourite musicians, football as a hobby and to be rich and famous as his ambition!





MICHAEL: born Michael Grant 6/7/69 in Birmingham. Keyboard player and promising pupil of Frederick Waite (Sr.) Lists Aswad, Gregory Isaacs and Jackie Mittoo as favourites and woodwork amongst interests. Like rest of band, is still at school and his earnings are put in trust fund till he reaches eighteen.

KELVIN: born Kelvin Grant 9/7/71 in Birmingham. Brother of Michael and another Waite pupil. Originally hands too small to finger guitar chords but serious musician and good toaster. Wider tastes include Gregory Isaacs and Black Slate, Dennis Brown and B.B. King. Like others, accepts fame with cool head.





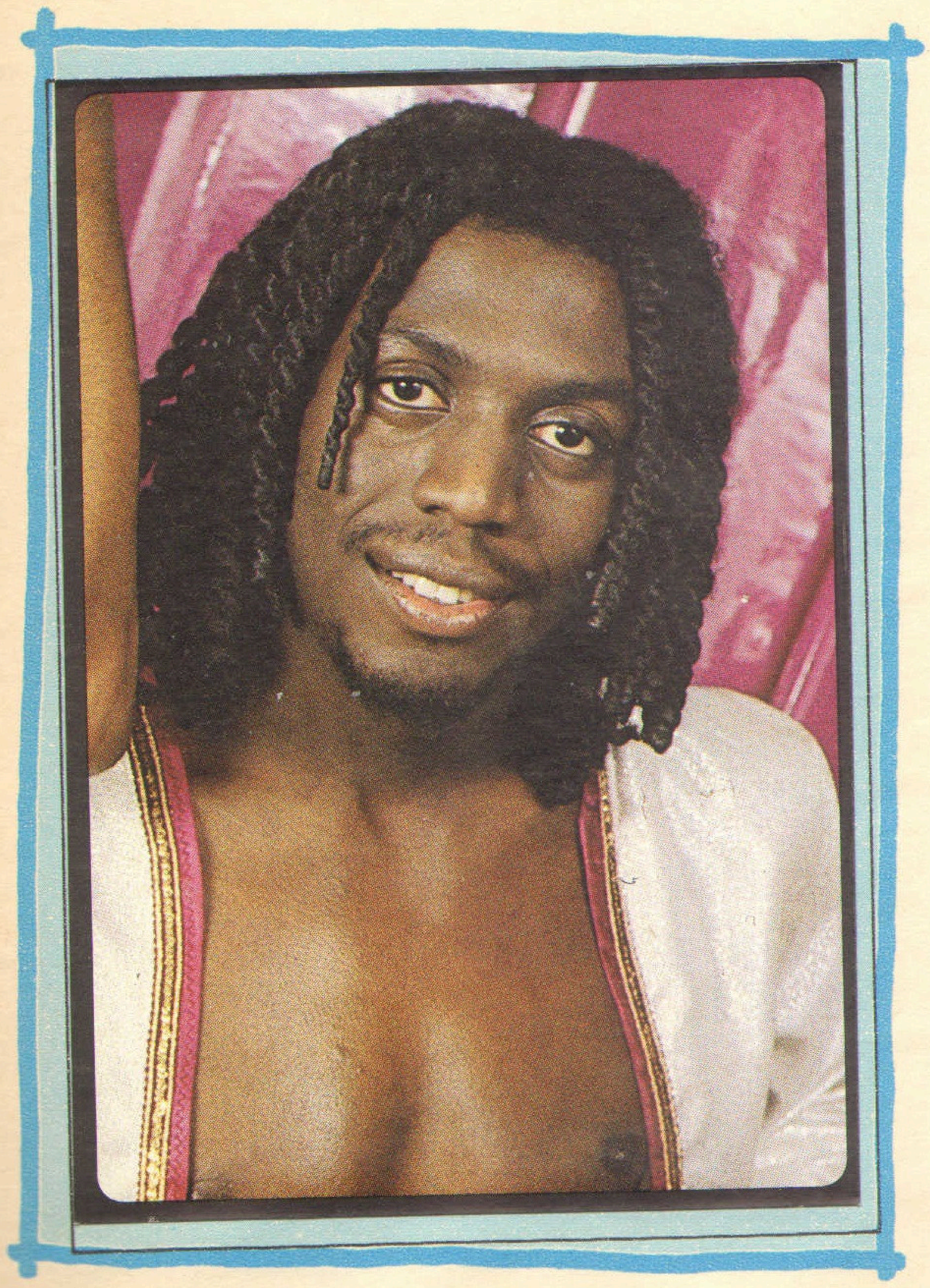
DENNIS: born Dennis Seaton 2/3/67 in Birmingham. Last member to join; had to wait until Frederick Waite (Sr.) stepped down. Name changed from Musical Express to Musical Youth and first single "Politics And Generals" released on local independent label 021. Lists duetting with Dennis Brown and owning studio as ambitions.



LEEE JOHN: born Leslie John McGregor 23/6/57 in St. Lucia; raised in London. Spent early teens at stage and drama school in New York. Returned to London and took countless jobs including singing waiter and extra in TV commercials. Has since appeared as space pirate in Dr. Who. Confident and talkative.

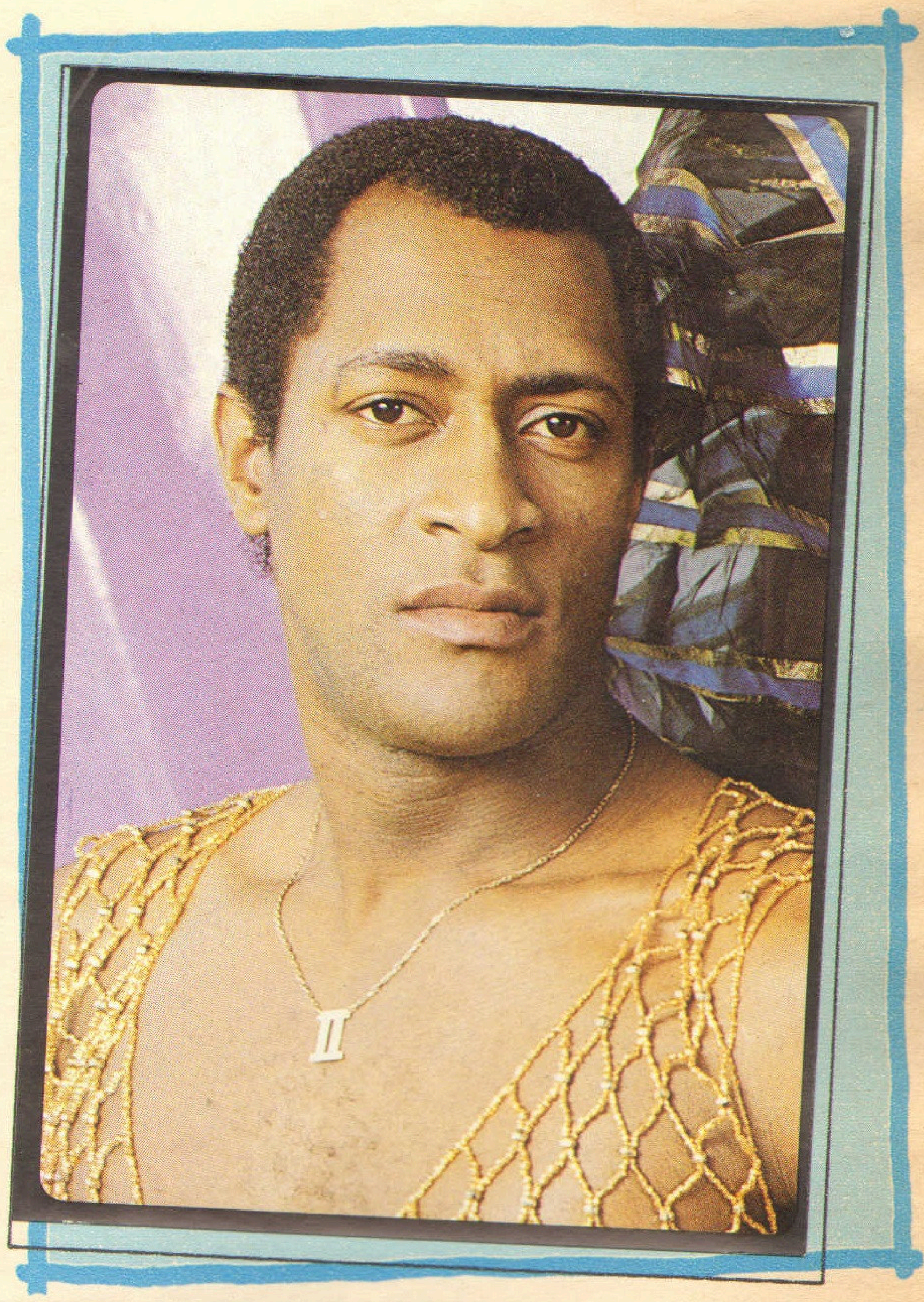






imagination





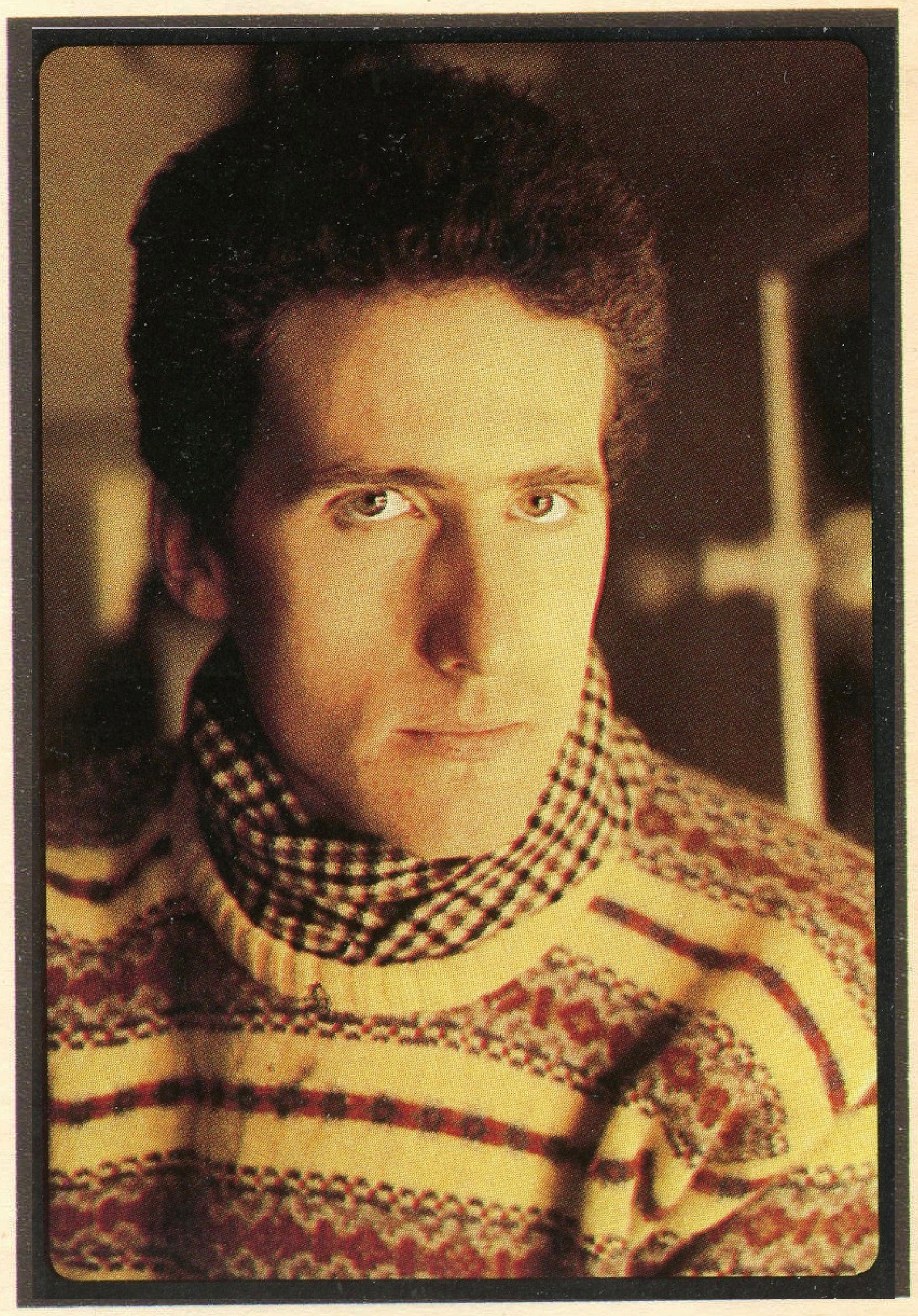
ASHLEY INGRAM: born 27/11/60 in Northampton. Multi-instrumentalist with home recording studio. Founded and disbanded many groups before met Leee when both were backing musicians for visiting American groups. Together hatched Imagination concept and recruited Errol as a sensitive drummer. Perfectionist.

ERROL KENNEDY: born 9/6/53 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Started drumming in local Boys Brigade at age 7; moved to London at age 9. Met Ashley in band called Midnight Express (Leee failed audition for same band) as backing musician. Brother of TV singer Grace, is exotic cook and fitness fanatic.

PAUL HUMPHREYS: born 27/2/60 in London. Moved to Wirral at age 3. Early OMD gigs featured Winston, a tape recorder later replaced by longstanding associates Malcolm Holmes (drums) and Martin Cooper (synths). First single "Electricity" on Factory set standard for tuneful, thoughtful songs. Married to Maureen.

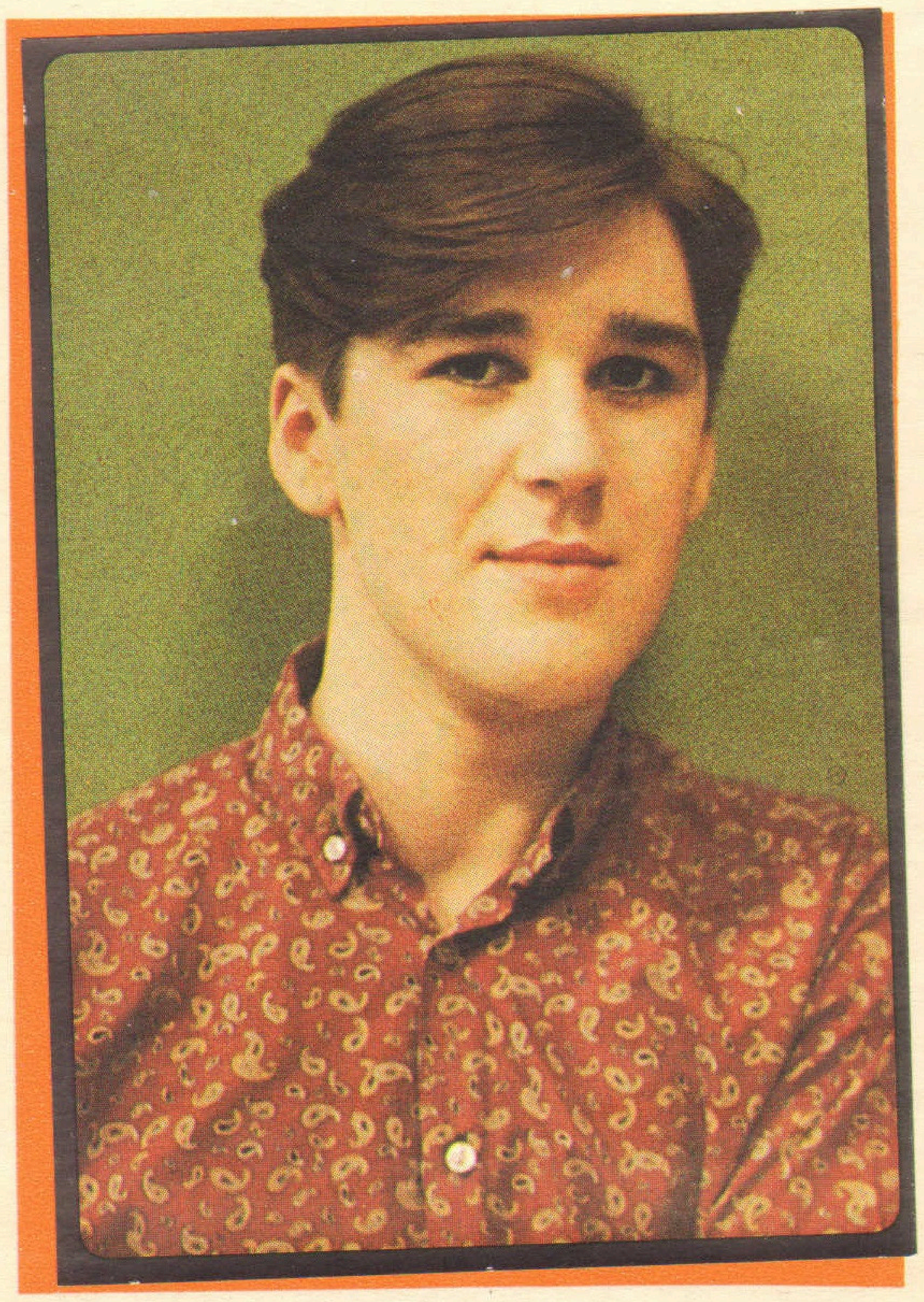
ANDY McCLUSKEY: born 24/6/59 in Wirral. Light-hearted band making serious music. Extremely self critical, but at best when tailoring a strong experimental streak into good melodic songs. Generally underrated, among pioneers of synthesisers and stylish presentation in pop context. Wholehearted, witty and talkative.

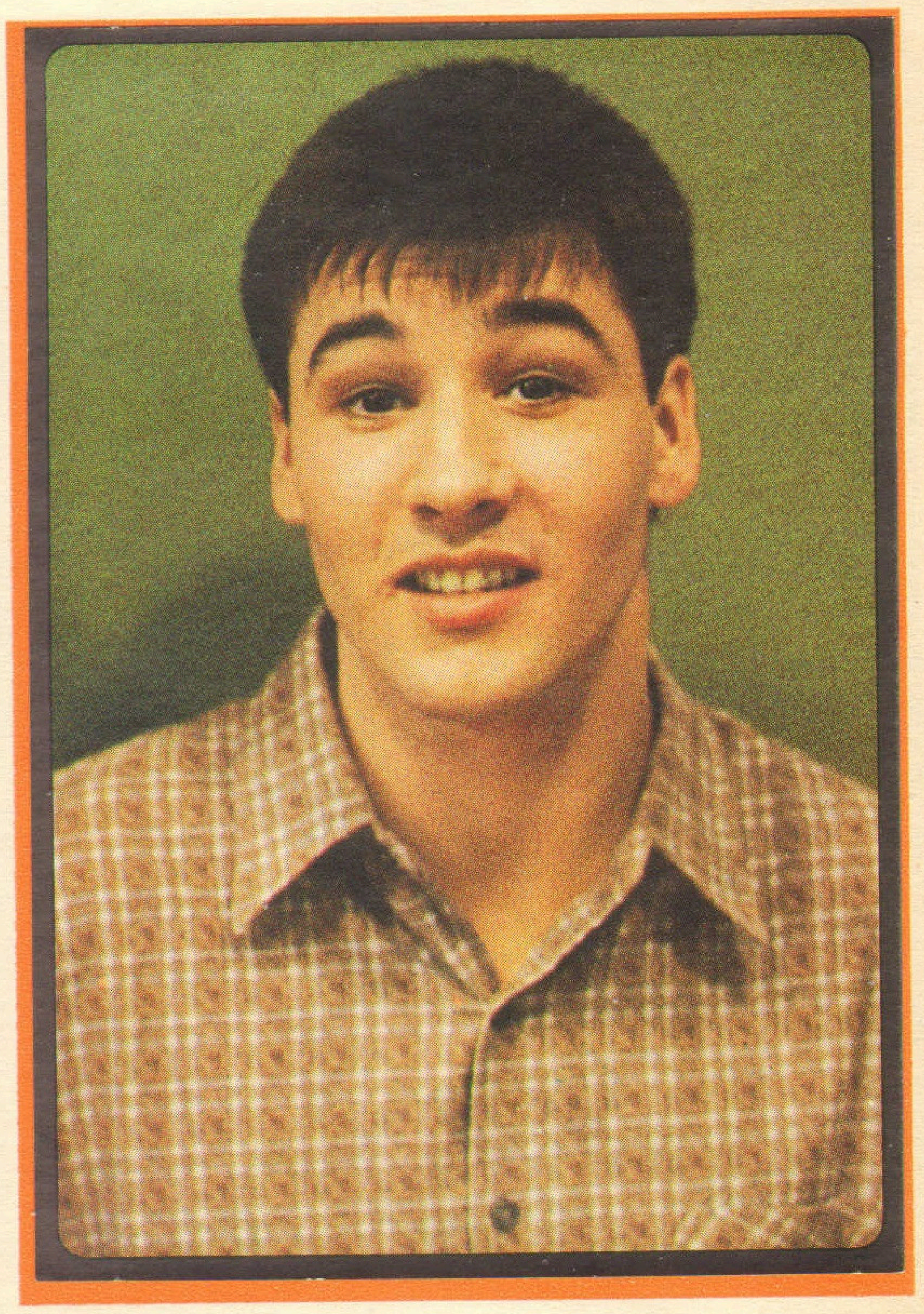




O R C H E S T R A L M A N O E U V R E S I N T H E D A R K

C H I N A C R I S I S





GARY DALY: born 5/5/62 in Kirby, Merseyside. Nucleus of China Crisis developed from school friendship with guitarist Eddie Lundon. Drawing on Bowie, Eno and Stevie Wonder, pair began composing wistful mood music in bedrooms. Previous jobs include roof tiling and making beer pumps. Reluctant pop star.

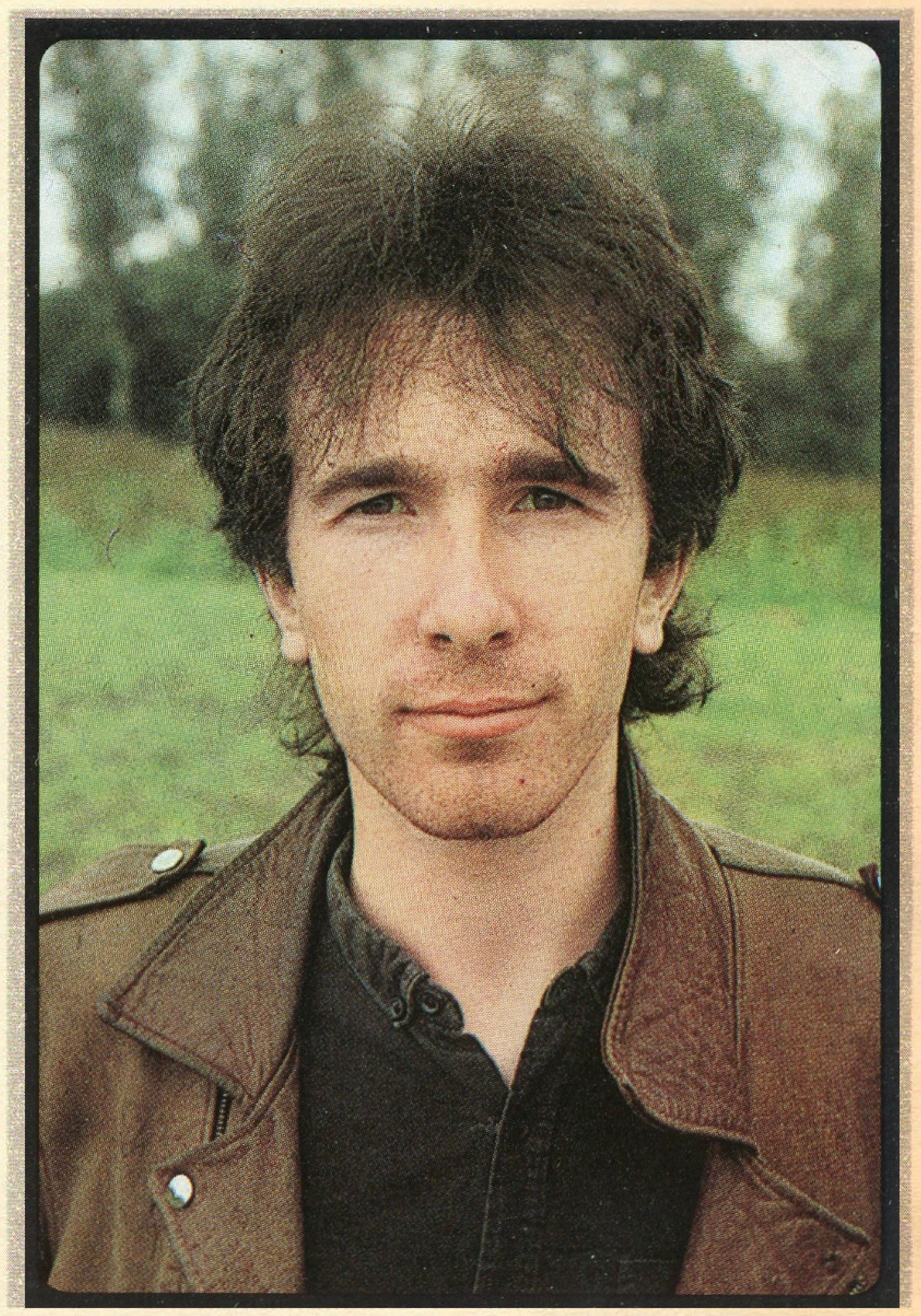
EDDIE LUNDON: born 9/6/62 in Kirby, Merseyside. Began writing possible pop songs with synth and bass player Gary Daly on instruments shared with other musicians. Previous jobs include motor mechanic. Band name China Crisis chosen in pub, partly on account of Eddie's school nickname "Chink". Another likeable unwilling star.

U2

BONO: born Paul Hewson 10/5/60 in Dublin. Driving force behind but reluctant focus for hard working band who put new life into old rock format. Open and strongly emotional character, only trusts U2 songs as vehicle for strong views. Also shrewd diplomat – future Irish prime minister? Married to Alison.



THE EDGE: born David Evans 8/8/61 in Wales but grew up in Dublin. Like Bono, received name from private childhood world called Lipton Village, an idea based on retention of innocence. (Band were friends before became group). Increasingly respected as musician, U2's modest guitarist is married to Aislinn.





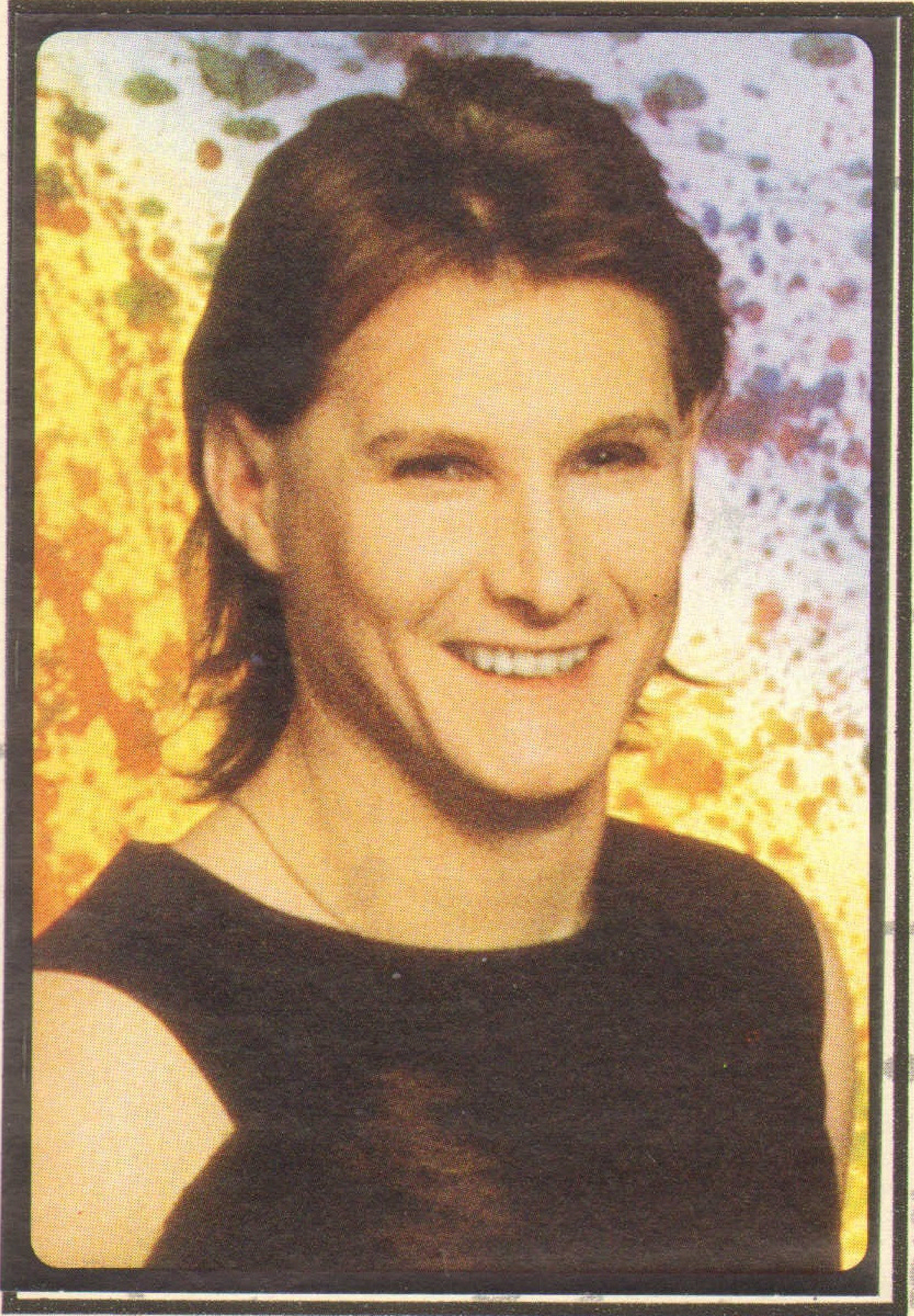
ADAM CLAYTON: born 13/3/60 in Oxford but raised in Dublin. U2's bass player is relaxed, worldly odd man out in otherwise rather intense band; doesn't share private religious views of other three. Only member with previous band experience after choosing to observe rather than participate in education. Good company.



LARRY MULLEN: born 31/10/61 in Dublin. Drummer is U2's youngest member but founded band via noticeboard in experimental Mount Temple school. Now band of major importance through constant live work, caring attitude to fans and their rejection of star trip. Pleasant chap but can be rather shy.

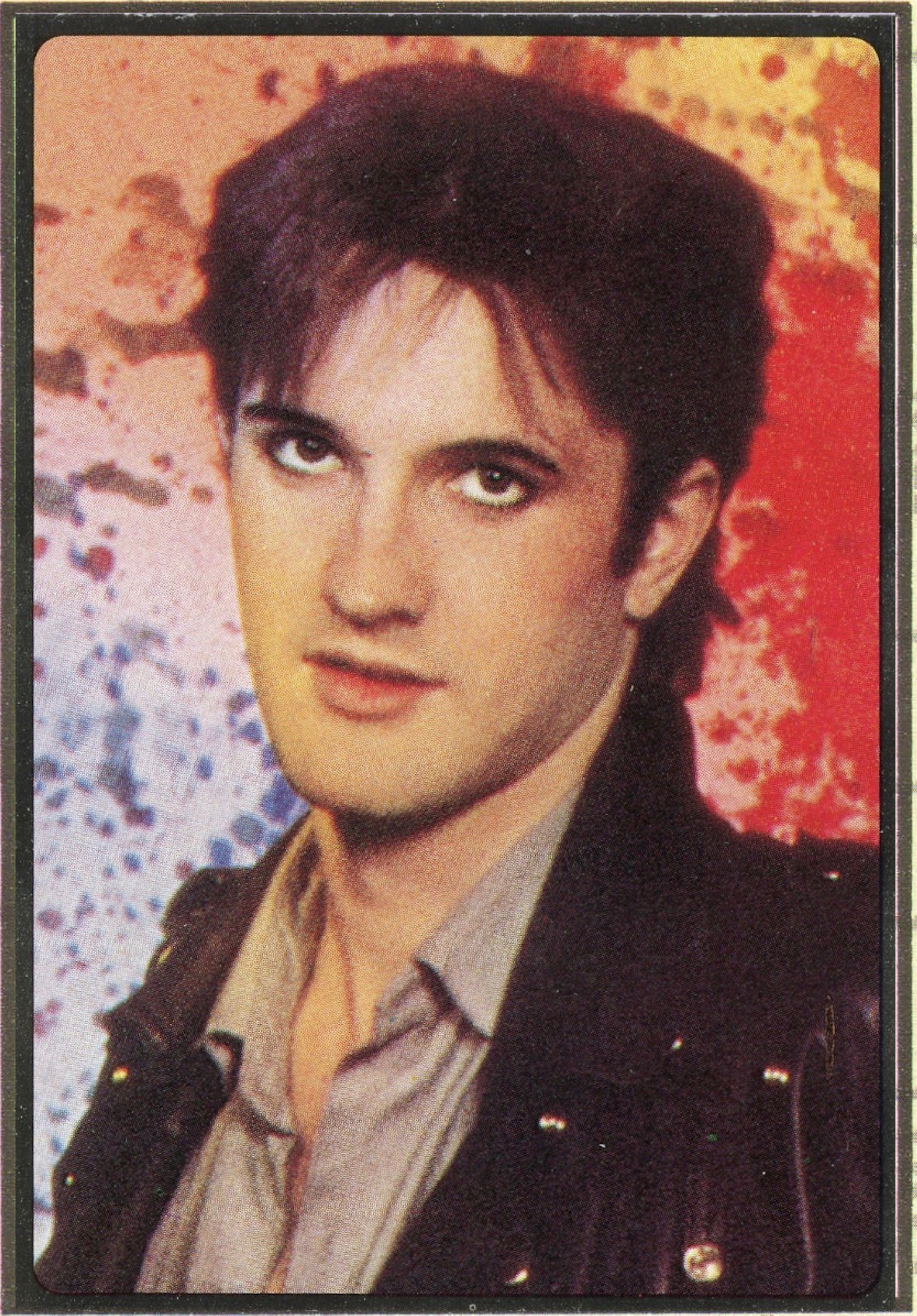
JO CALLIS: born 2/5/51 in Rotherham, Yorkshire. Last member to join current diverse clan, is very underrated pop tunesmith. Formerly guitarist in Rezillos, brought experienced writing talent to Mk.2 Human League via friendship with Adrian (with whom shares passion for assorted trash). Cheerful and enthusiastic.

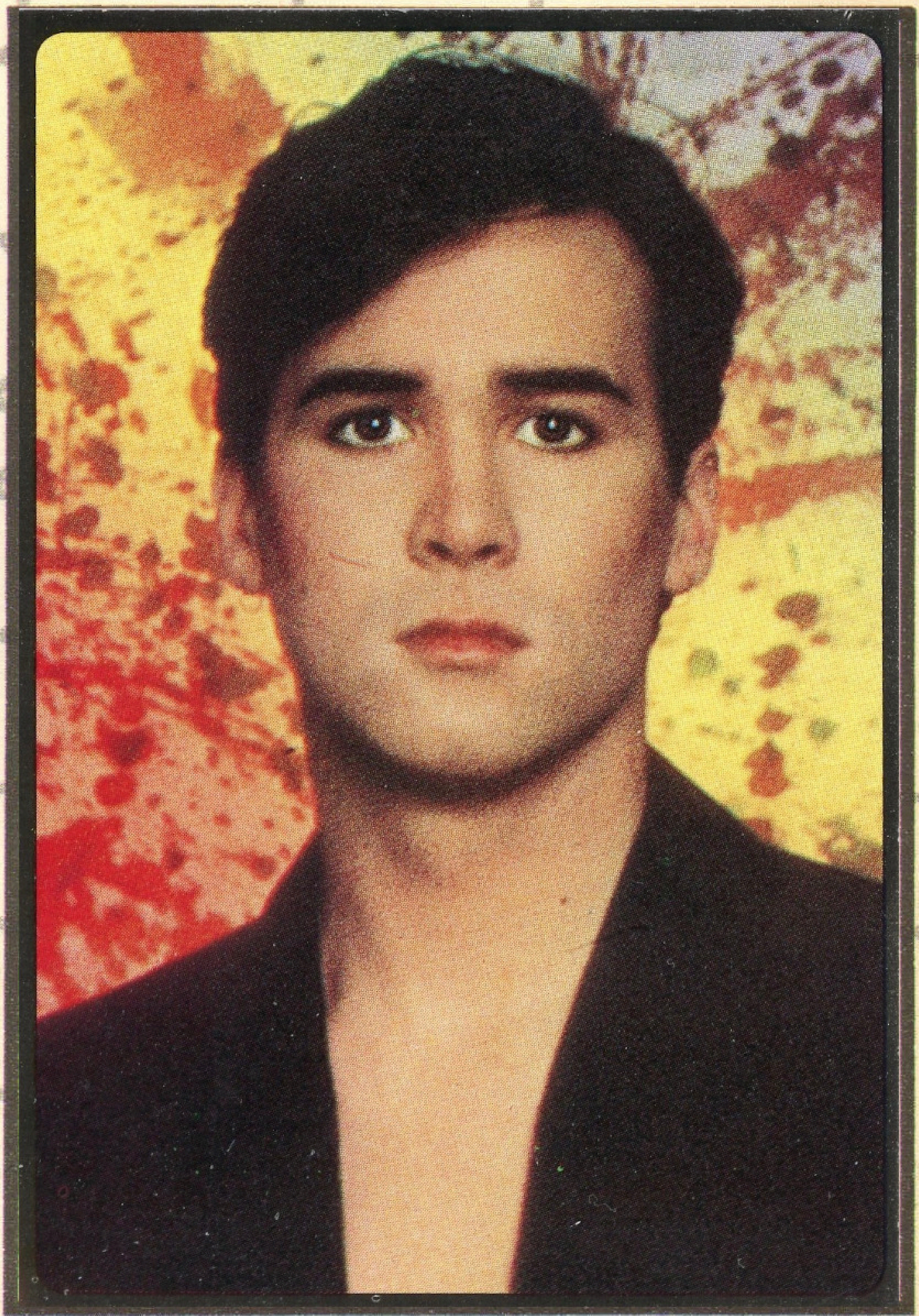




HUMAN

GARY NUMAN: born Gary Webb 8/3/58 in West London. Previous jobs: import/export clerk, warehouse man. After unsuccessful punk singles as Tubeway Army, recorded influential synthesiser album "Replicas". Outspokenly honest on unfashionable topics, has achieved little since except round the world flight on pilot's licence.





GARY NUMAN

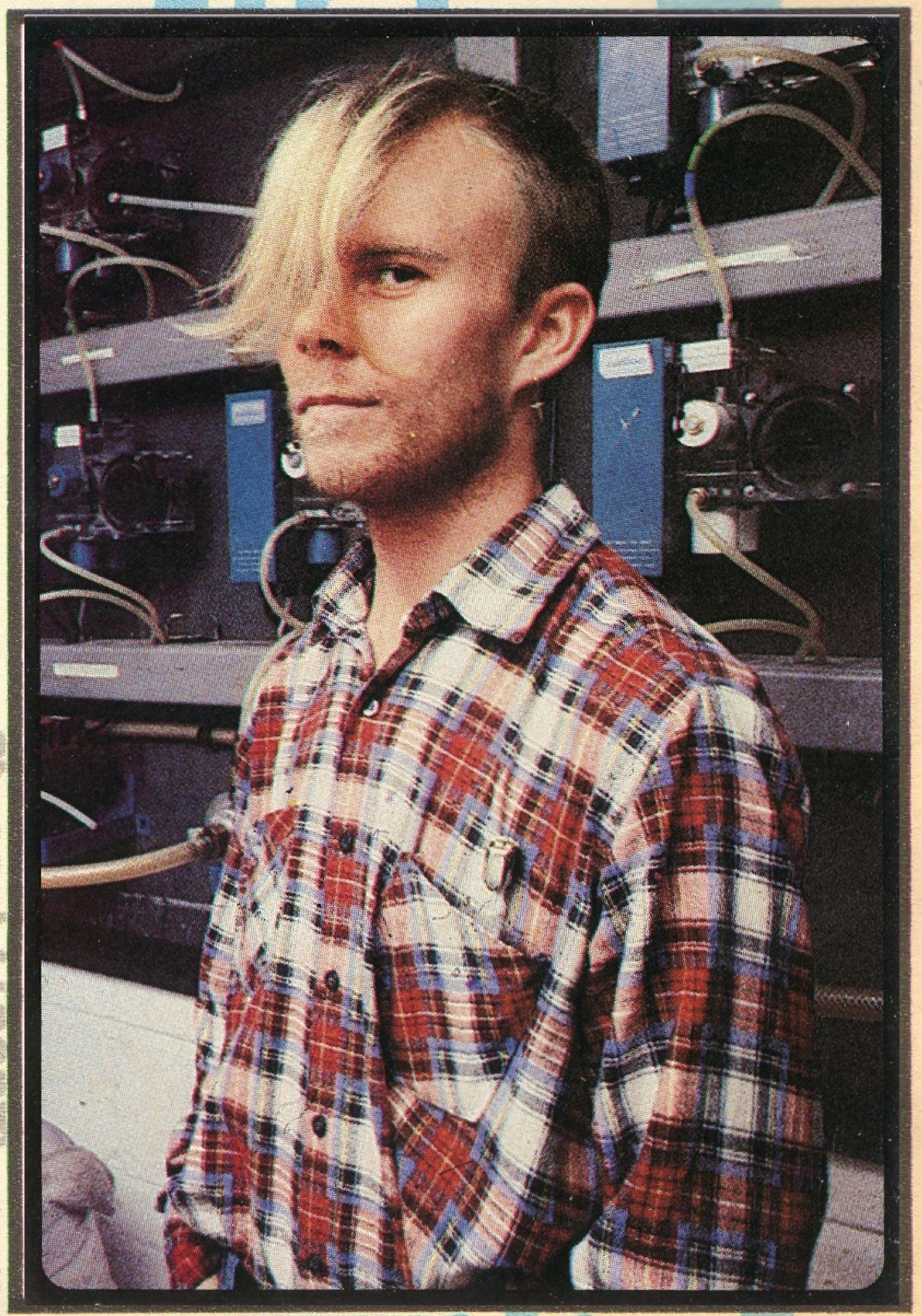
IAN BURDEN: born 24/12/57 in Newark On Trent. Something of a serious musician into experimental music and reggae. Recruited into Mk.2 Human League from Sheffield band Graph purely for first tour, stayed on to add much needed sense of rhythm plus bass guitar to previous all-electronic line-up. Quiet, humorous.

PHILIP OAKEY: born 2/10/55 in Leicester. Gifted lyricist and singer, was recruited into original Human League by Messrs Ware and Marsh (now Heaven 17) in June 1977. Previous job: hospital porter. Pop skills overshadowed by famous lop-sided haircut, is shrewd, determined and argumentative hub of band. Motorbike enthusiast.

L E A G U E

SUSANNE SULLEY: born 26/3/63 in Sheffield. Having persuaded parents to let them join Mk.2 Human League, has developed with friend Joanne Catherall as singer. More outgoing than Joanne but both have feet firmly on ground. No less opinionated than rest of band, their influence shouldn't be underestimated.





VINCE CLARKE: born 3/7/61 in Essex. Excellent tunesmith, wrote early Depeche Mode synth-pop hits but quit because preferred to experiment in peace. Formed Yazoo with "Alf" Moyet for one single but again overtaken by success. Now working with producer Eric Radcliffe and guest vocalists as The Assembly.



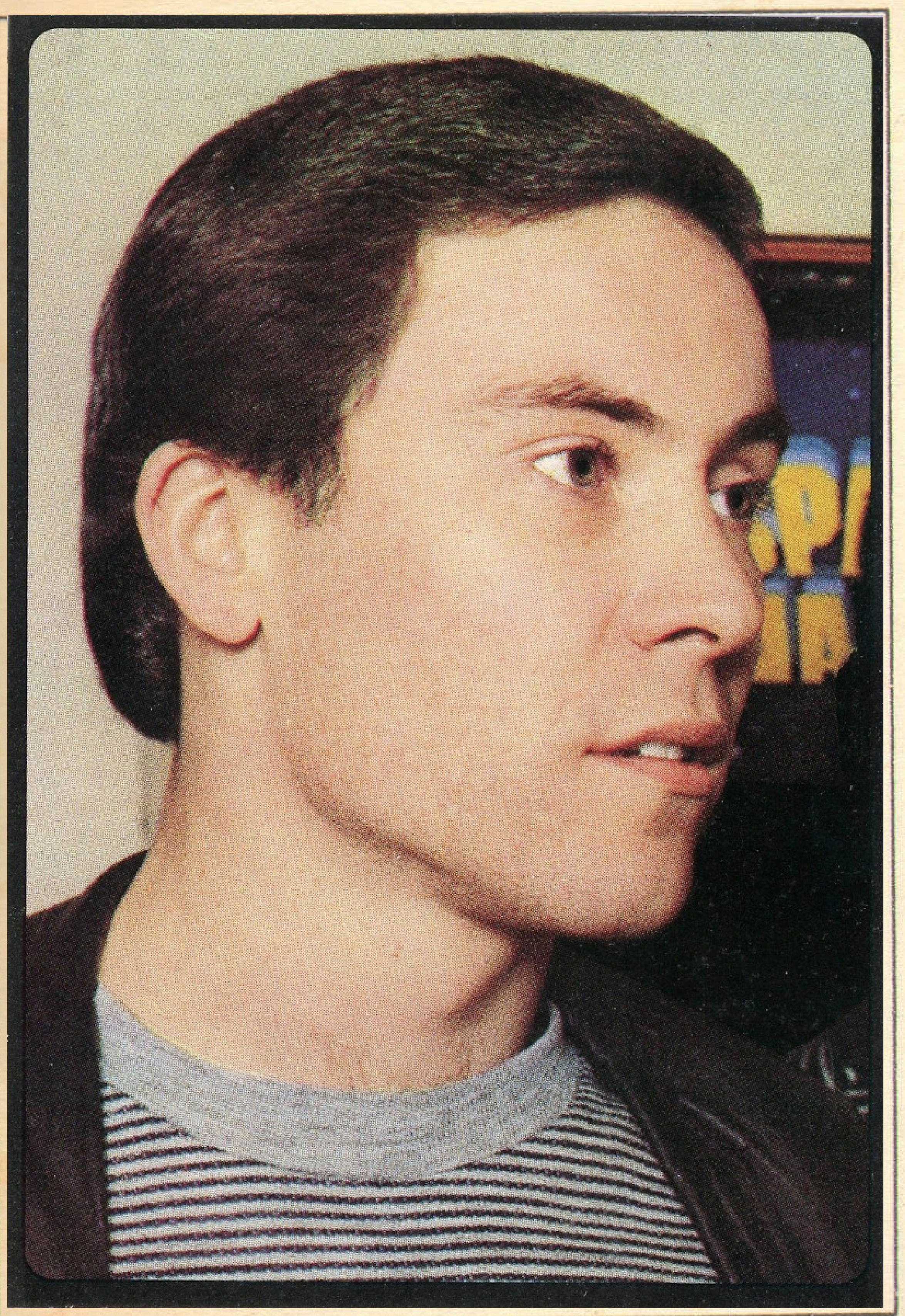


JOANNE CATHERALL: born 18/9/62 in Sheffield. Still at school when spotted by Oakey in local Crazy Daisy disco with longtime friend Susanne Sulley as likely dancers for Mk.2 Human League. Already into electronic music, the two had already bought tickets for gig they were to perform at! Is quiet but no pushover.

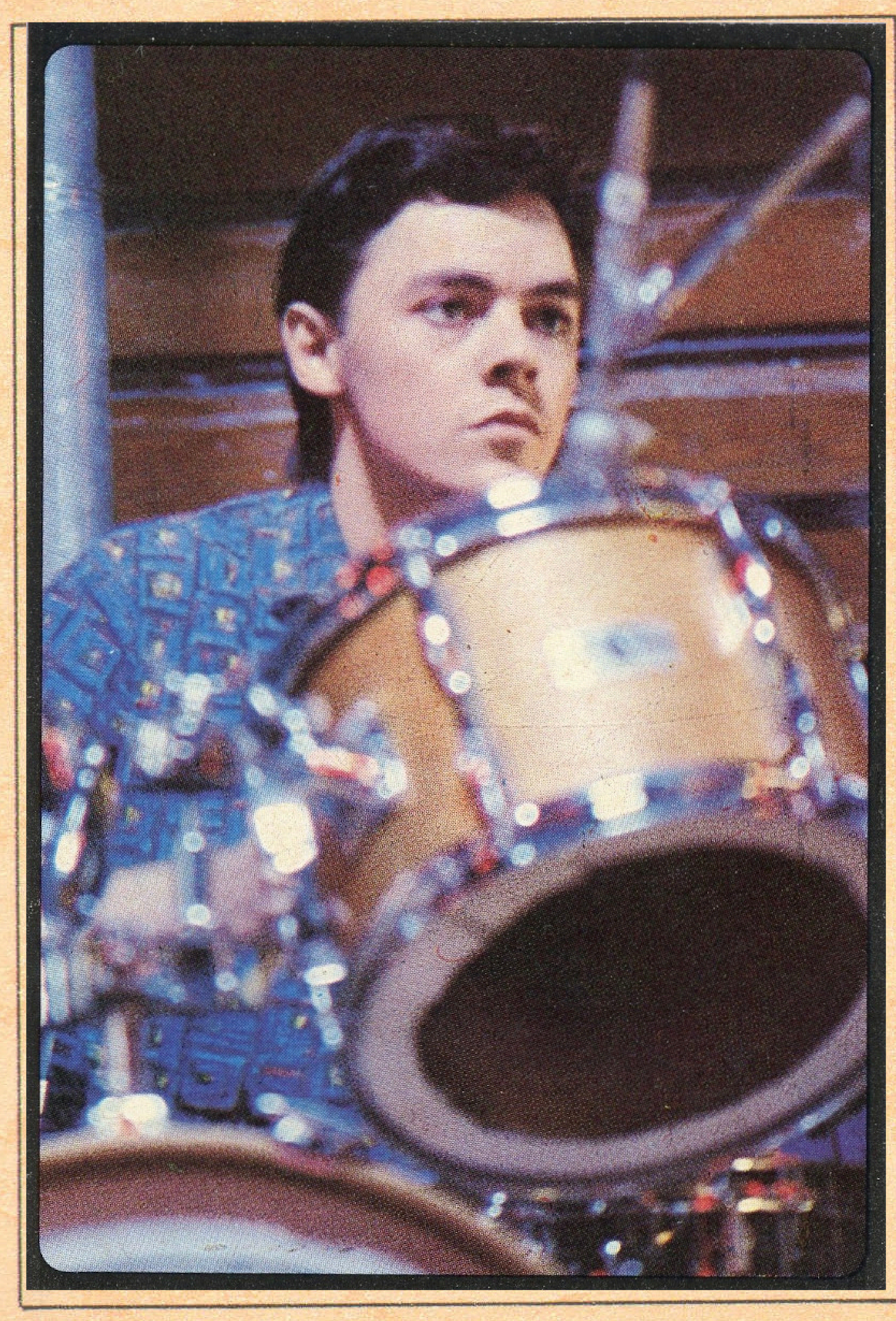
ADRIAN WRIGHT: born 30/6/56 in Wakefield. Former ice-cream salesman, early Ramones fan and film student became Human League visual director in March 1978 to provide slide show, but has since mastered synthesiser. After split, found could also write songs. Limitless passion for comics, toys, etc. Avoids limelight.

VINCE CLARKE

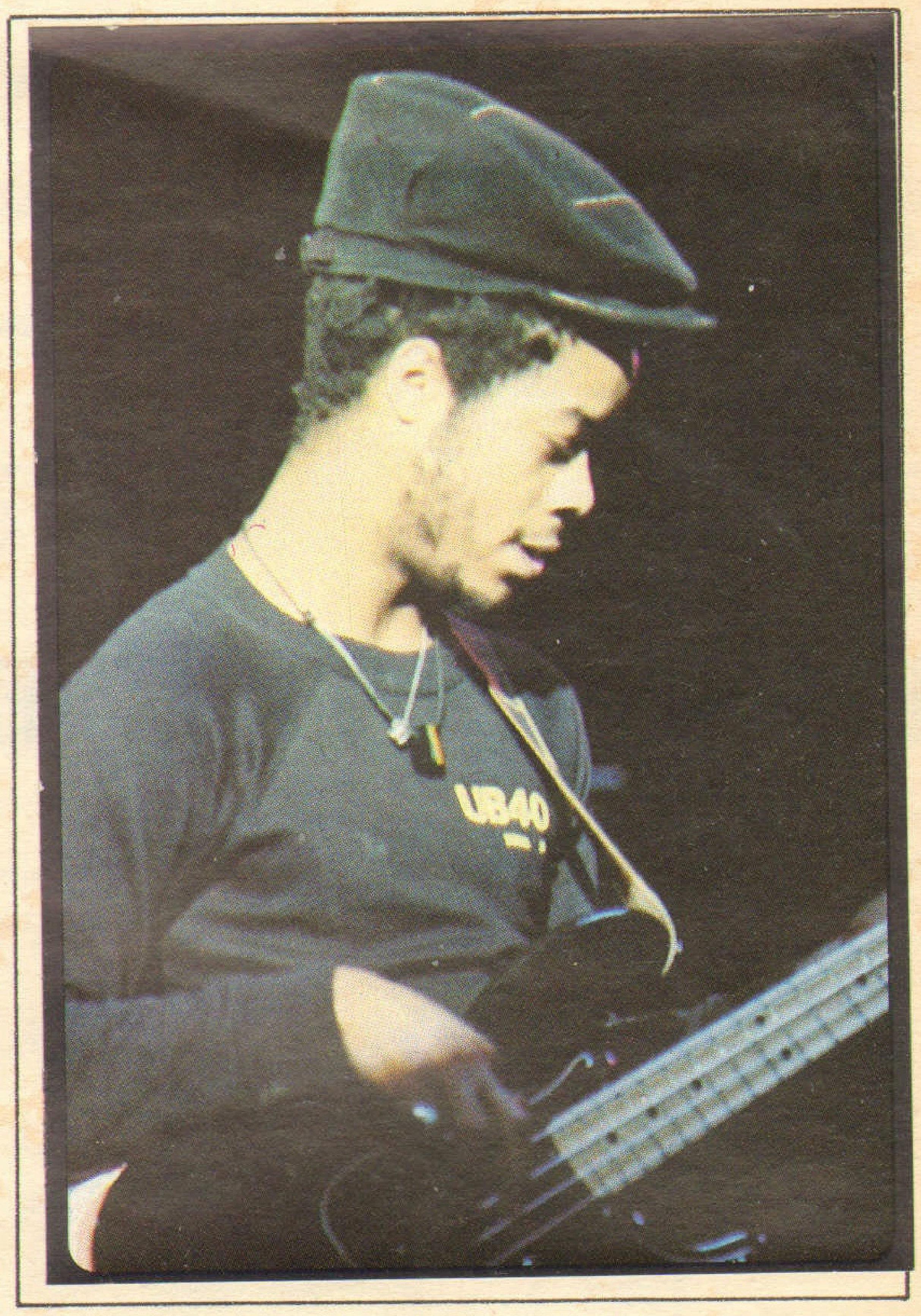
ROBIN CAMPBELL: born 25/12/54 in Birmingham. Born into musical and politically aware family. Father Alex was big name in CND and protest folk movement of early '60s. Older brother Dave is band's manager and younger brother is vocalist Ali. Robin is guitarist and UB40's main lyricist, though credits are always to group.



JIM BROWN: born 21/11/57 in Birmingham. Like rest of UB40, drummer was brought up in working class multi-cultural Balsall Heath area of Birmingham where grew up with the music celebrated on "Labour Of Love" album. With Ali and Earl, co-founder of UB40 in summer 1978, taking name from unemployment signing-on form.



EARL FALCONER: born 23/1/59 in Birmingham. Bassist is third of UB40's founding trio. In early days band used to rehearse in cellar beneath where he and Brian lived. Band still care about fans, spending as long talking to them after concert as they do playing gig itself. Brother Ray is in band's sound crew.



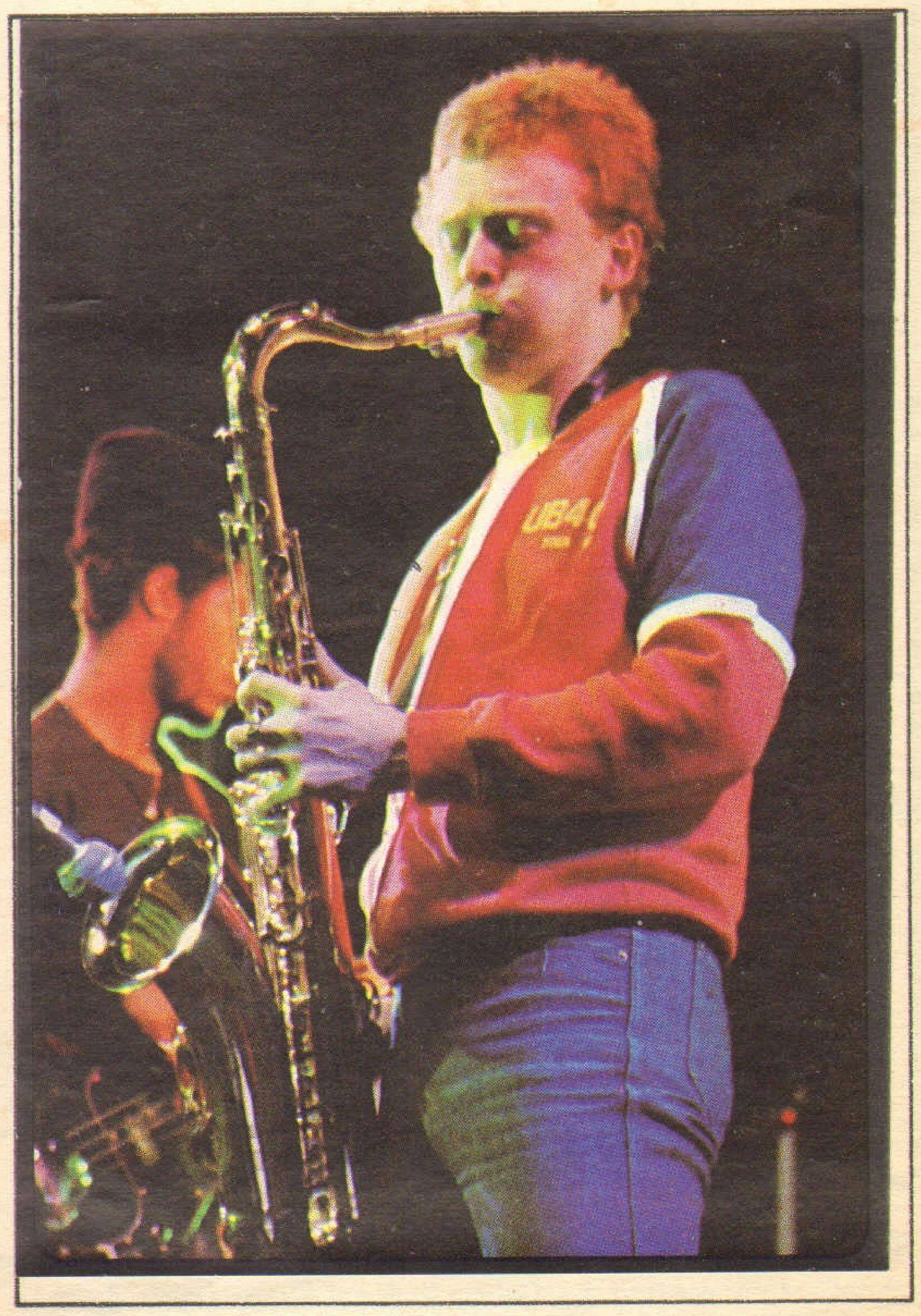
UB 40



ALI CAMPBELL: born 15/2/59 in Birmingham. Younger brother of Robin, for whose words Ali provides melodies. (Brothers once dreamed of being England's answer to Jackson Five!) First song they ever wrote was "King", UB40's debut single and the first single to go Top Ten (March 1980) without backing of a major company.



ASTRO: born 24/6/57 in Birmingham. UB40's trumpeter and toaster was last member to join, following return of percussionist Timi Tupe Abayomi to Nigeria after only two gigs. As with others, puts emphasis firmly on music (which brought them together) but since members have strong political views, lyrics often reflect social issues.

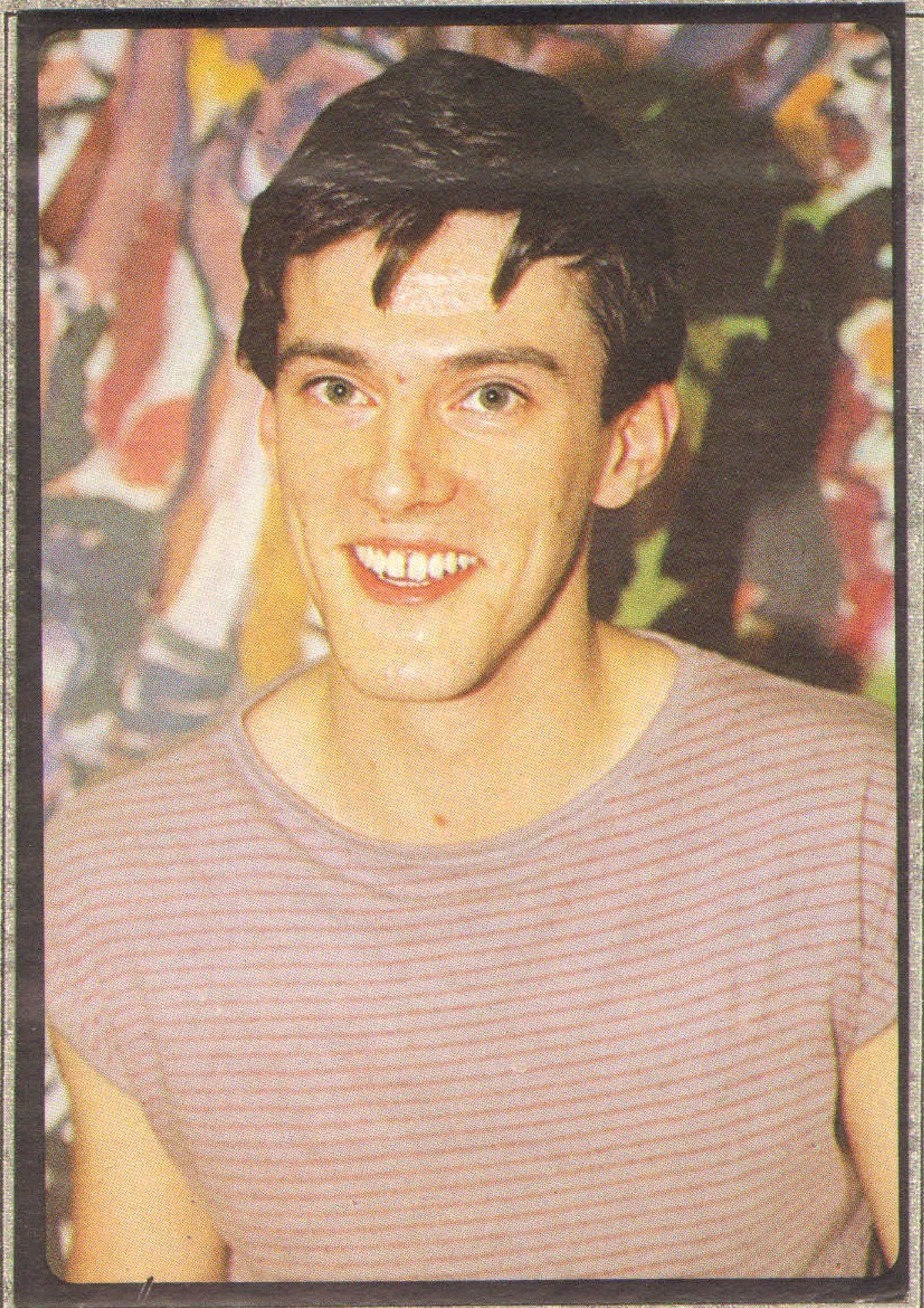


BRIAN TRAVERS: born 7/2/59 in Birmingham. Strong on visuals, saxophonist now directs UB40's videos (starting with "Red Red Wine"). Band now have own DEP International label and HQ (in converted bacon factory) after quitting Graduate over omission of pointed "Burden Of Shame" from S. African release of "Signing Off" LP.

NORMAN HASSAN: born 26/1/58 in Birmingham. Percussionist, one of loose gang that formed band's early social background. One of UB40's original aims was fulfilled when third album "Present Arms In Dub" was first dub album to enter national charts and be stocked by multiple chain stores.



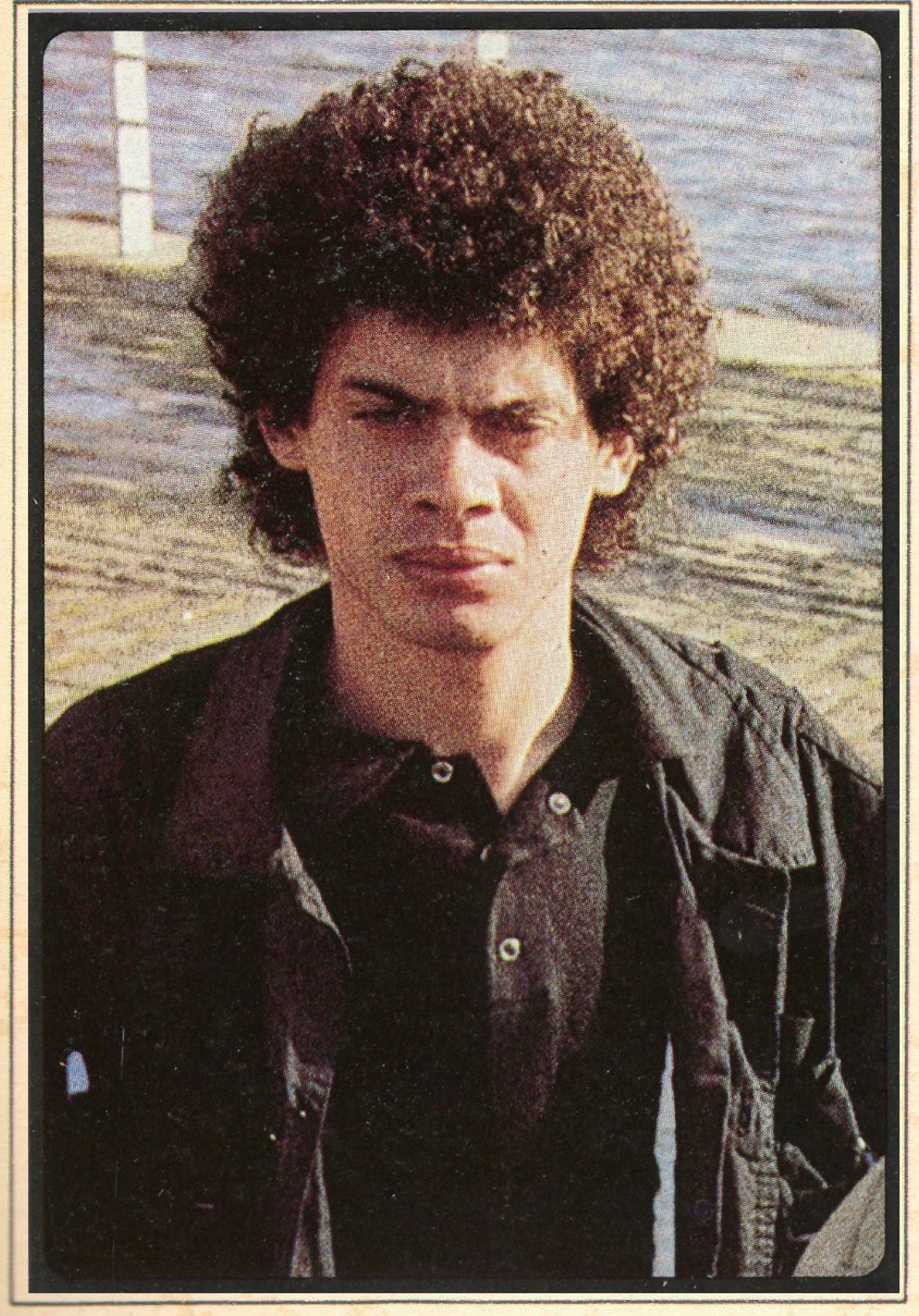
STEPHEN MORRIS: born 28/10/57 in Macclesfield, Cheshire. With Hook, Sumner and late Ian Curtis, was in punk band Warsaw who evolved into dark, demanding Joy Division. Excellent drummer, highlighted by New Order's shift towards freer, more relaxed music. Video enthusiast with camera and effects generator. Cheerful.



PETER HOOK: born 13/2/56 in Salford, Lancs. Believes that band's music – not personalities – should count. Hence reluctance to do interviews and be sucked into mainstream of business. New Order approach is casual not aloof. Band remain sensible, ordinary people – this one plays bass, synths and goes motorbike scrambling.



n e w o r d e r



MICKEY VIRTUE: born 19/1/57 in Birmingham. Second last to join UB40, replacing Jimmy Lynn on keyboards shortly after band began practising in earnest. First gig February 1979. (Had to be talked out of doing "Labour Of Love" as first album.) Now very competent musicians with great live act; try very hard not to be trendy.



BERNARD SUMNER: born 4/1/56 in Salford, Lancs. Also known by surnames Dicken (after mother remarried) or Albrecht (after machine in office of illustrators where guitarist previously worked.) New Order have succeeded on own terms – strength of music, minimum of fuss – and want to keep it that way. Affable, likes driving.



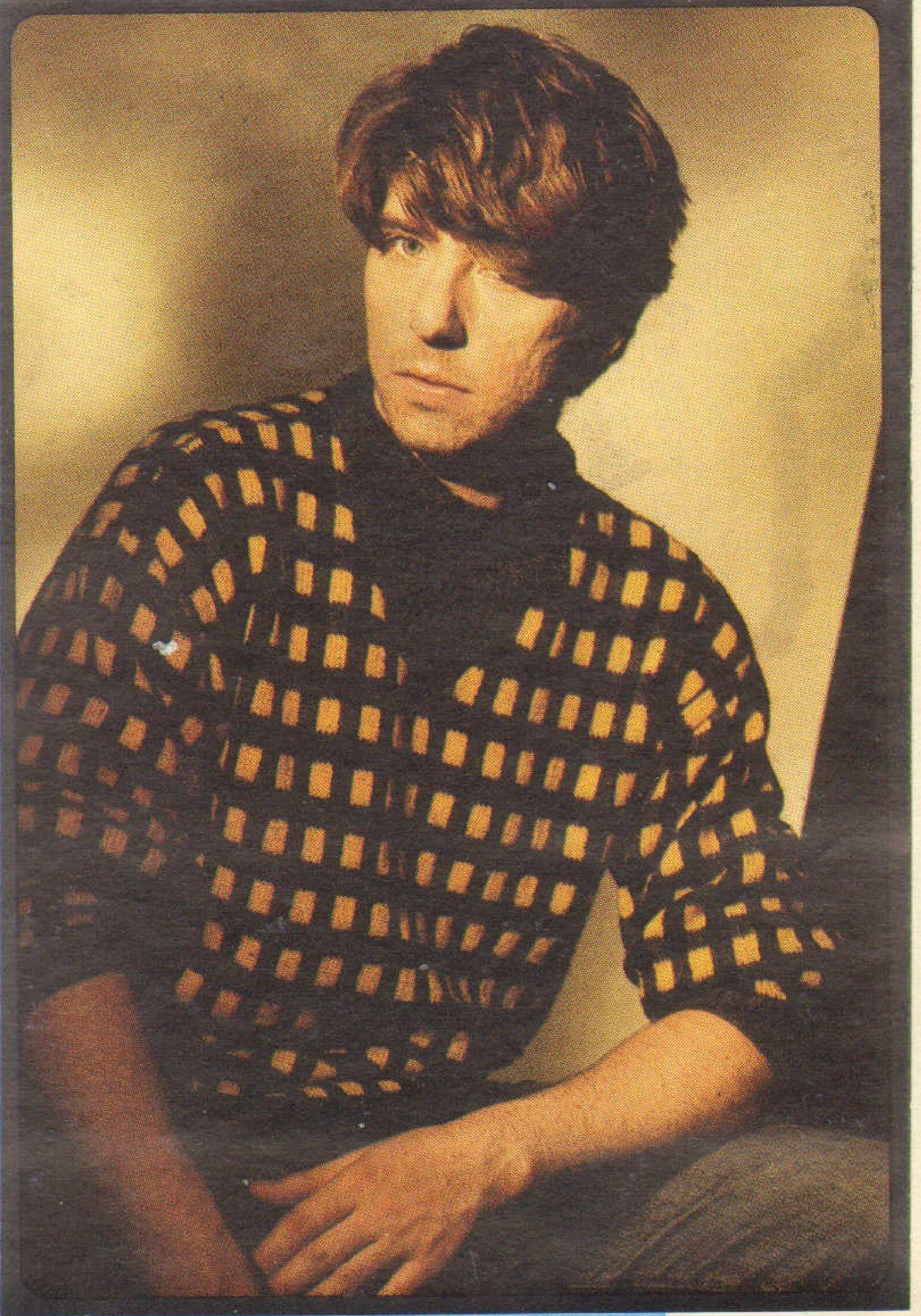
GILLIAN GILBERT: born 27/1/61 in Manchester. Recruited into New Order in October 1980 because had no preconceived ideas. Met other three when rehearsing in next room as member of punk band The Inadequates. Joy Division name and songs dropped by prior agreement. Was previously on graphic design course.

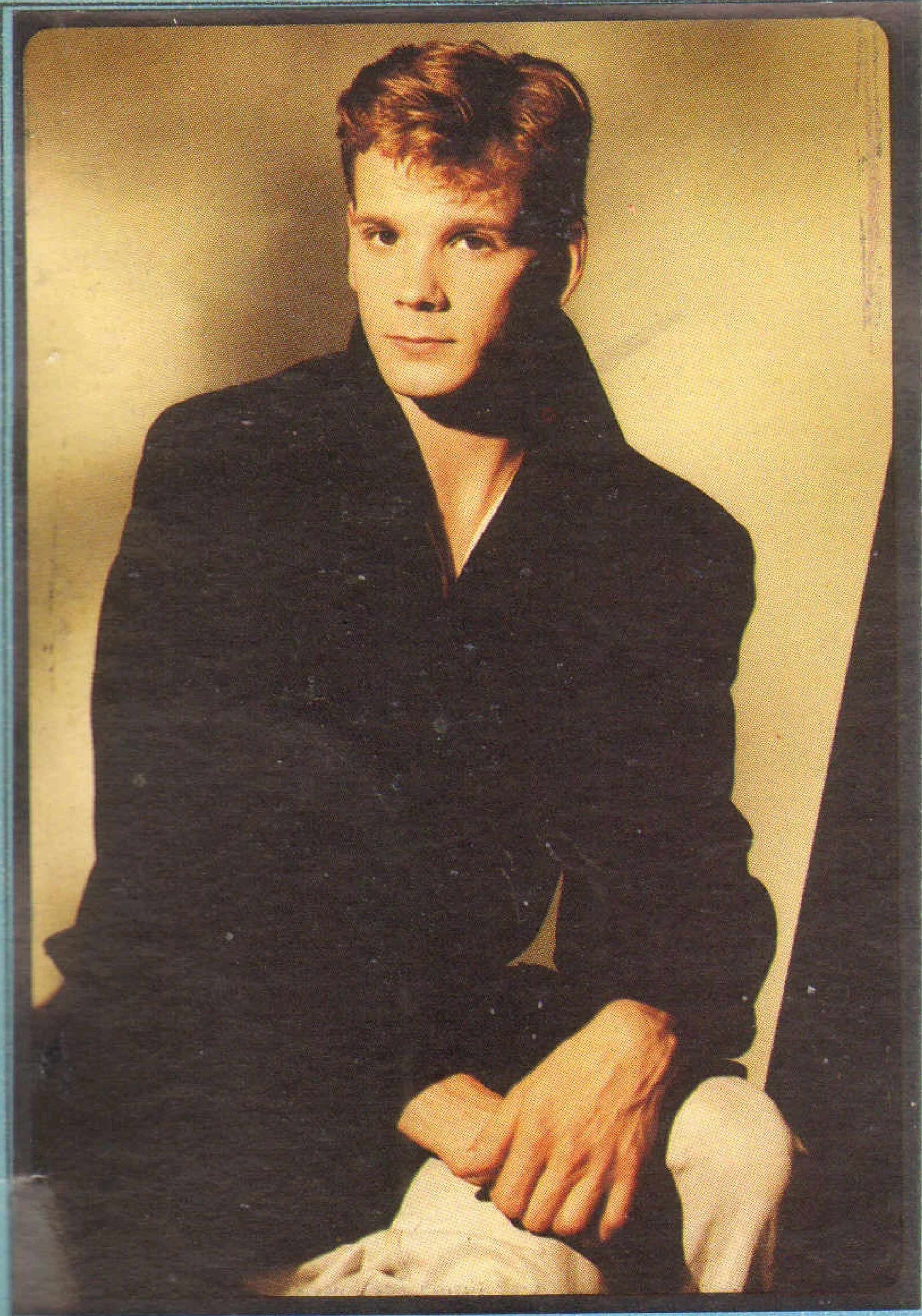
ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN

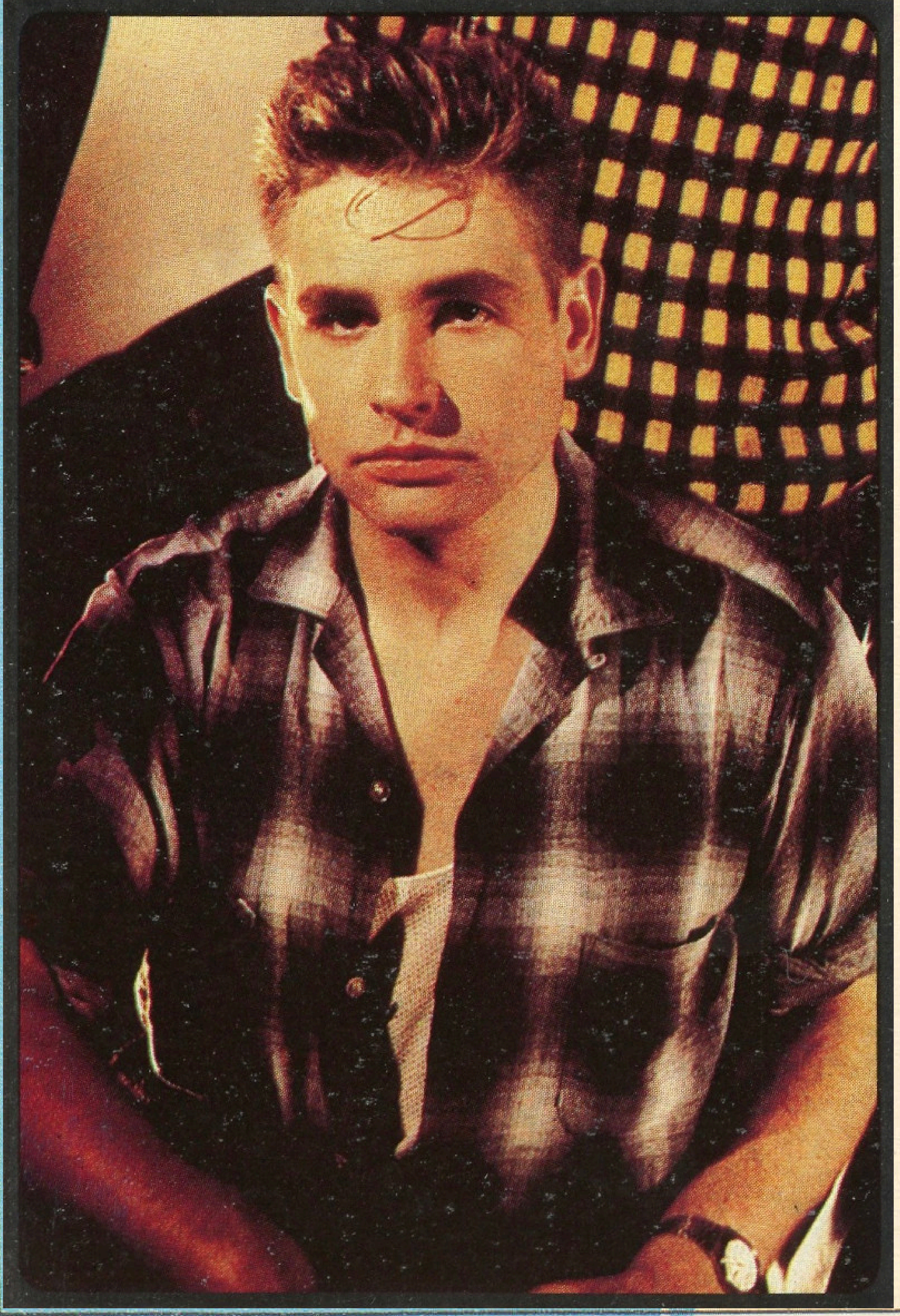
IAN McCULLOCH: born 5/5/59 in Liverpool. Possessor of superbly soulful voice, Mac considers Bunnymen's dark, brooding music to be mission in life. Number one Bowie fan – at one time insisted on being called Duke – and not as aloof as may appear. Has pithy, deadpan sense of humour. Married to Lorraine.

WILL SERGEANT: born 12/4/58 in Liverpool. Starting as half of Industrial Domestic duo, Bunnymen's guitarist teamed up with Mac and drum machine mid-1978. Has known bassist Les since age 12. Previous jobs include short order cook. Also released solo album – soundtrack to film "Grind". Collects instruments.





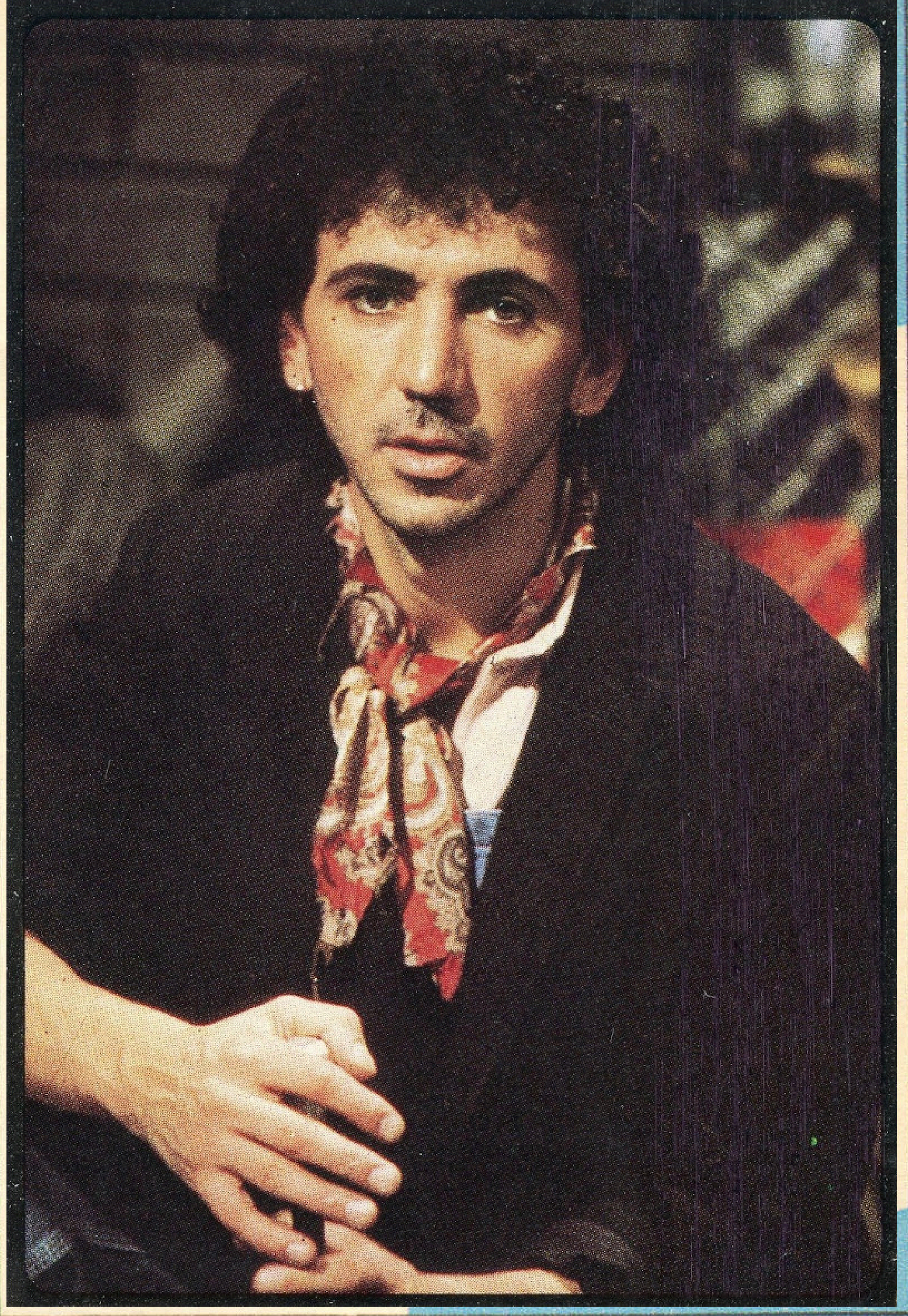




PETE DE FREITAS: born 2/8/61 in Port of Spain, Trinidad, where father worked. Moved to Britain (Goring on Thames) aged 5. About to go to university when recommended to Bunnymen by mutual friend; didn't even have drumkit to audition with! Replaced original Echo (a drum machine) in October 1979. Quiet type.

LES PATTINSON: born 18/4/58 in Ormskirk, Merseyside. Used to work in boatyard. Joined Bunnymen four days before first gig in November 1978. Acclaimed albums sell well but had to wait till May 1982 for first Top Twenty hit. Close knit foursome who spurn London star syndrome. Is big motorcycle enthusiast.

ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN



KEVIN ROWLAND: born 17/8/53 in Wolverhampton. Rejecting punk and Two Tone for Sixties soul, formed Dexys Midnight Runners in July 1978. Hit no.1 with "Geno" before split but Rowland kept name and replaced brass with fiddles to reclaim top slot with "Come On Eileen". Fiercely dedicated to soul vision.

KEVIN ROWLAND

JOHN LYDON

JOHN LYDON: born 31/1/56 in North London. Launched punk rebellion in 1976 as anarchic Johnny Rotten in Sex Pistols. Quit to form Public Image Limited in October 1978 and moved to New York. Now only member. Survives on intimidating charisma rather than erratic music. Now dabbling in film.





MARC ALMOND: born 9/7/56 in Southport. Met Blackpool soulboy Dave Ball while studying Fine Art in Leeds and formed Soft Cell in October 1979. Had record breaking run with "Tainted Love" but abandoned duo in favour of more theatrical solo work. Temperamental and erratic, remains healthy antidote to fashion.

MARC ALMOND

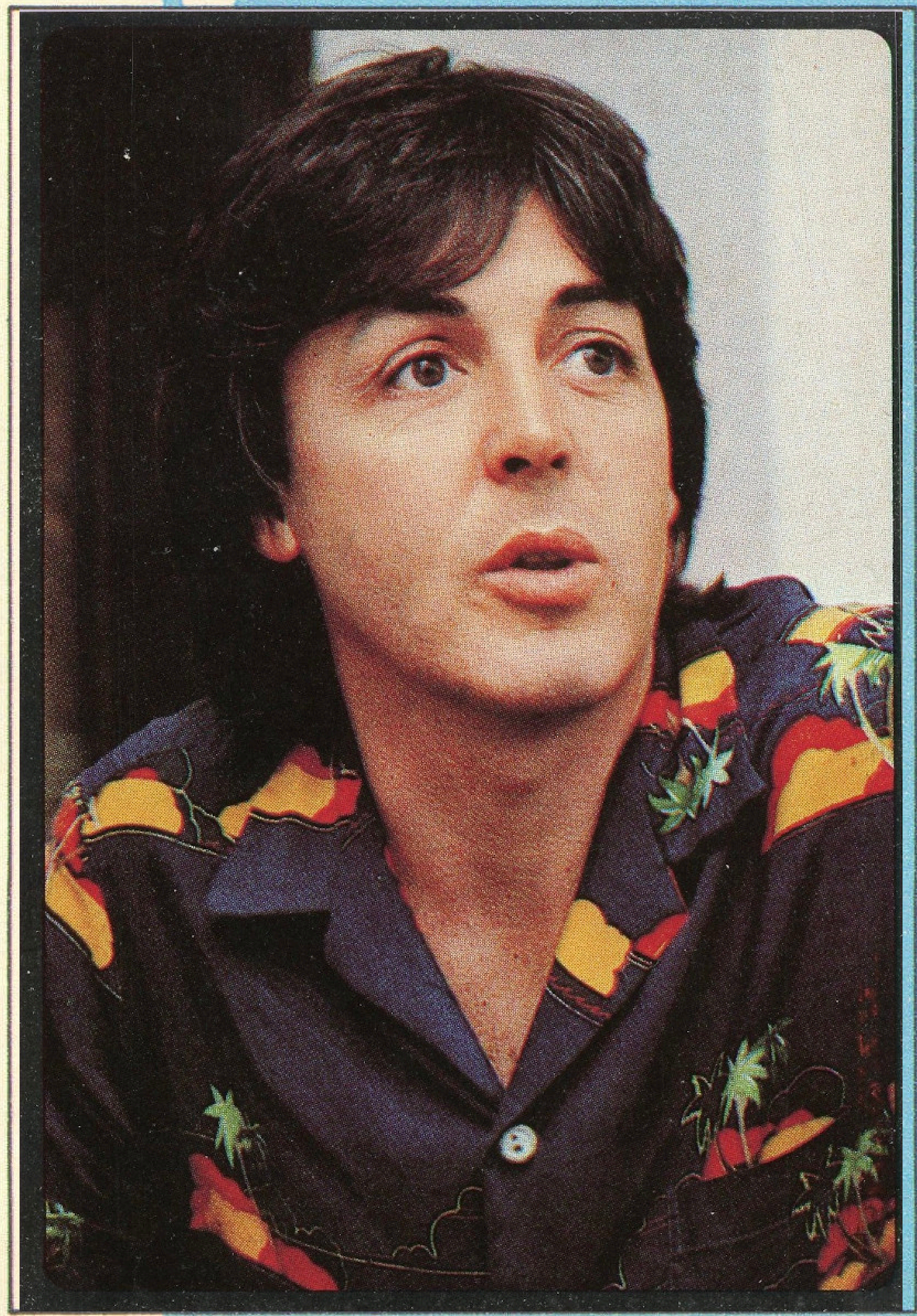
TOYAH

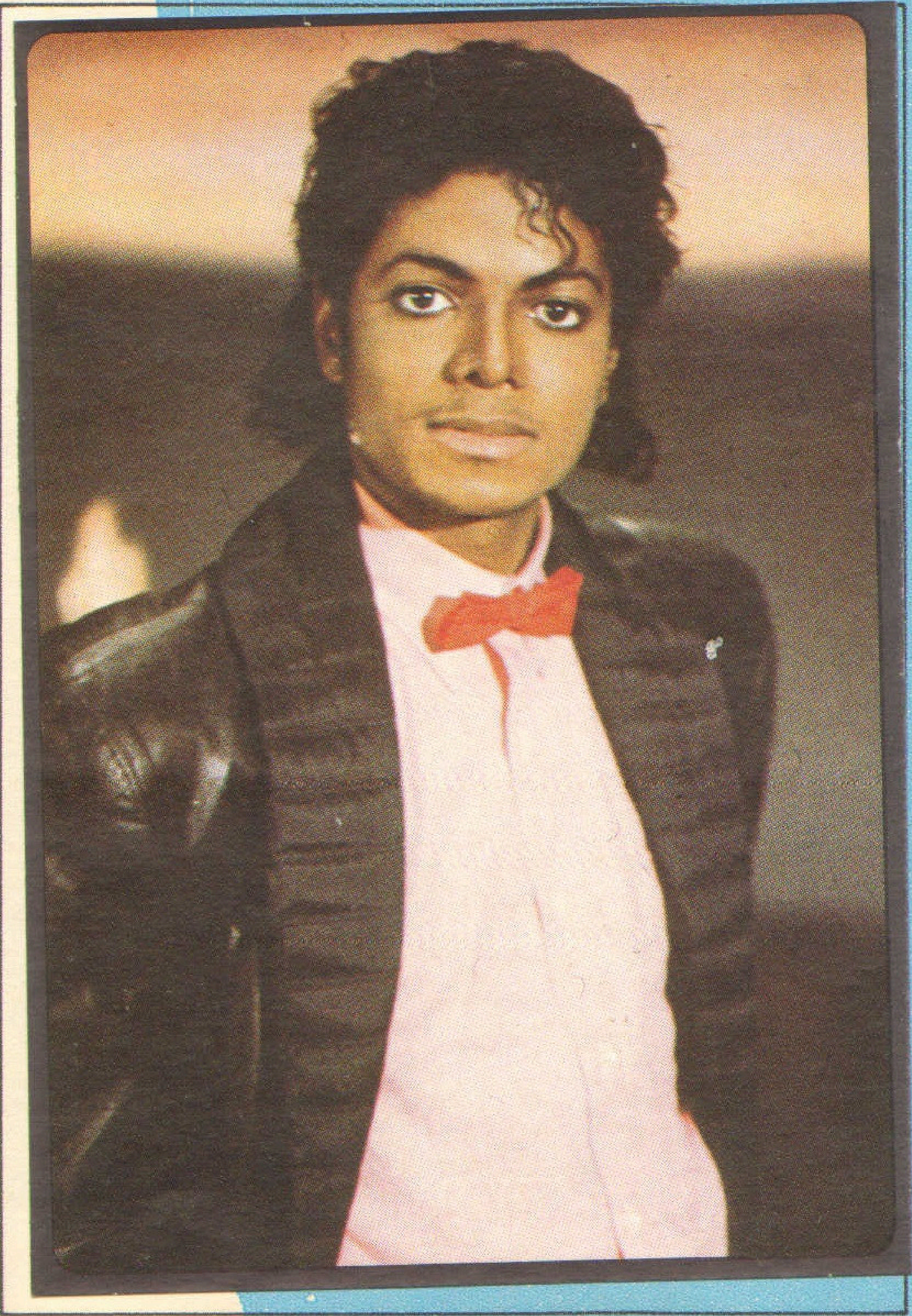
TOYAH: born Toyah Willcox 18/5/58 in Birmingham. Maintains strong theatre links from teens, appearing also in films and television roles. Formed band in 1977 and built up strong following through live work, though slammed by critics. Finally secured commercial breakthrough with hits in 1981.



PAUL McCARTNEY

PAUL McCARTNEY: born 18/6/42 in Liverpool. Helped change face of music and society with The Beatles, arguably the best band ever. Has never achieved the dizzy heights of his first band, but a string of catchy sentimental songs has maintained his popularity. Very rich, but remains likeably modest guy.



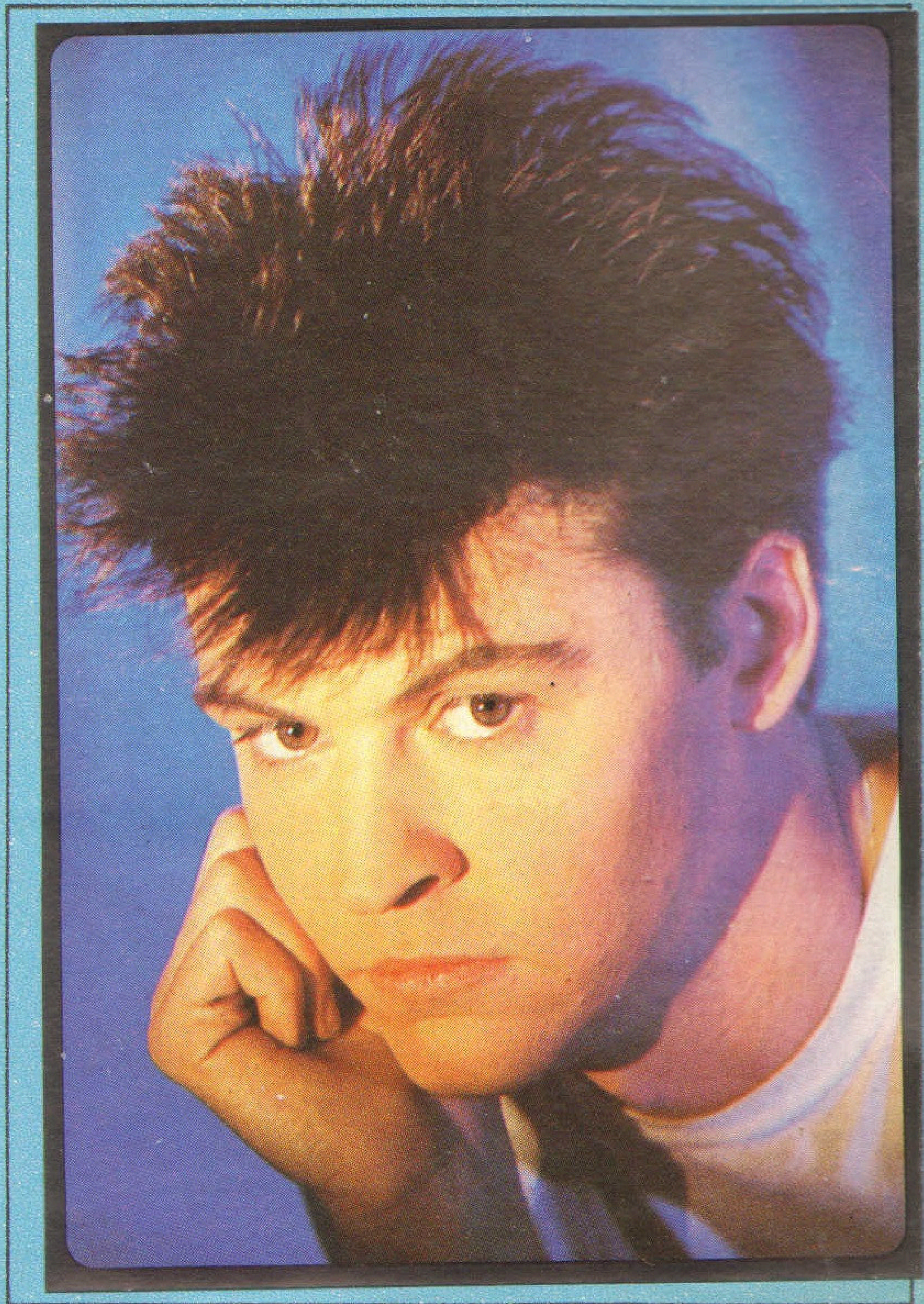


MICHAEL JACKSON: born 29/8/58 in Gary, Indiana. Raised in showbiz as member of Jackson Five and developed parallel solo career with great success. Also superb dancer and has set new standards with lavish videos. Now world's biggest black music artist, lives strong reclusive, spartan lifestyle.

MICHAEL JACKSON

PAUL YOUNG

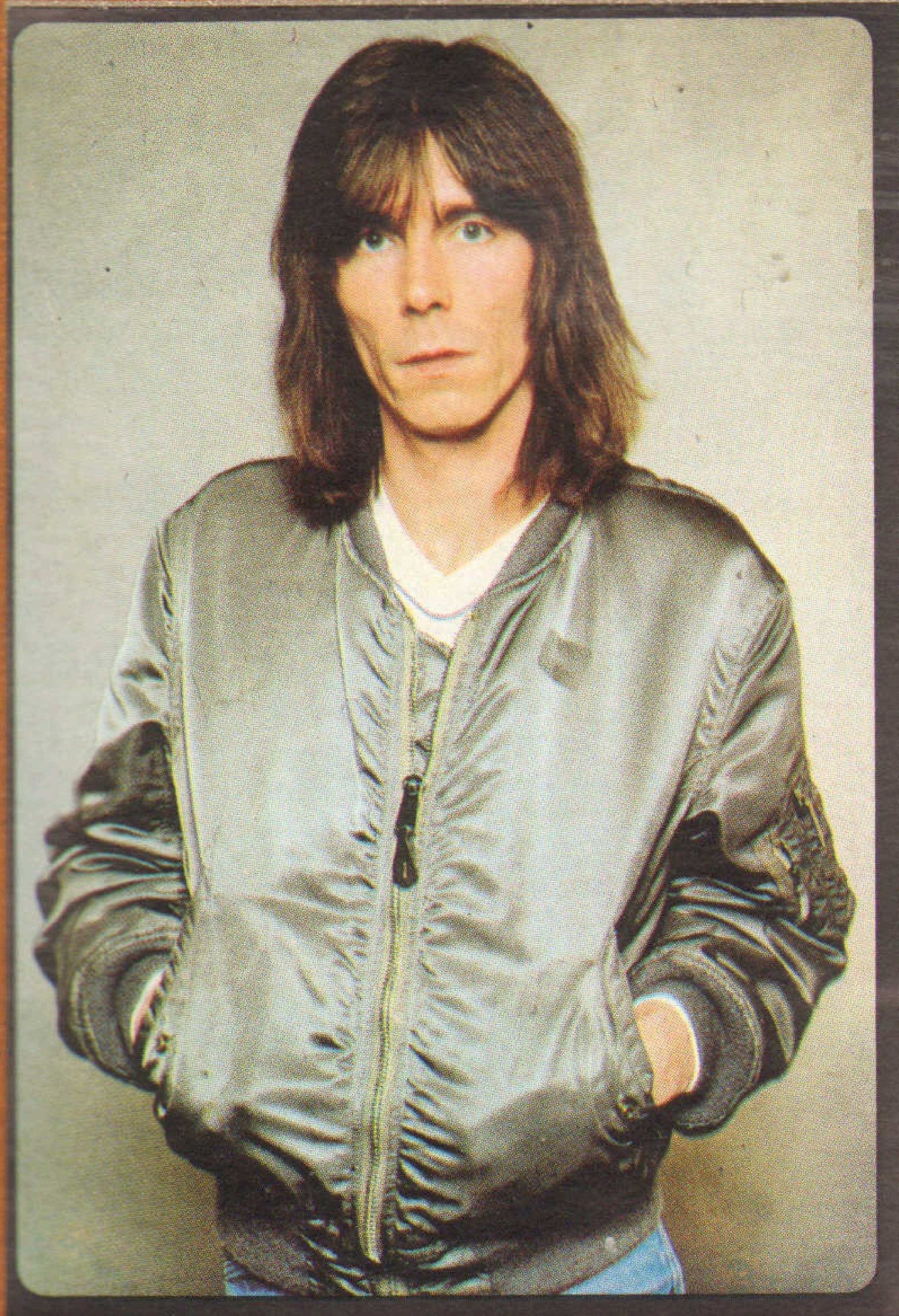
PAUL YOUNG: born 17/1/56 in Luton. Paid dues by playing bass and singing in local pub bands from where came Q Tips, a hard working but anonymous soul band. Strong, expressive voice earned solo deal and struck gold with third single – old Motown chestnut "Wherever I Lay My Hat". Craftsman's talent.





ALISON MOYET: born 18/6/61 in Billericay, Essex. Studied musical instrument technology in London and sang with local blues bands before meeting Vince Clarke to form Yazoo. Sensing limited development potential, quit at the top for promise of solo career. Great soulful voice. Recently married childhood sweetheart Malcolm Lee.

ALISON MOYET





STATUS QUO

ANDY BOWN: born 27/3/47 in Kent. Formerly with '60s teen band The Herd, joined Status Quo on keyboards in 1976 after spell as session man, though had contributed to Quo's "On The Level" album two years before. Has solo deal with EMI and contributes to Quo's writing, e.g. "Whatever You Want". Prefers low profile.

FRANCIS ROSSI: born 29/5/49 in South London. Formed band with Alan Lancaster and wrote Quo's first hit "Pictures Of Matchstick Men" (originally intended as a 'B' side) in January 1968 after several flops. Returned to charts after lean spell in 1973 on own terms with "Paper Plane" hit and "Piledriver" album.

ALAN LANCASTER: born 7/2/49 in South London. With school orchestra pal Francis Rossi, put together band called The Scorpions (later The Spectres) in 1962. After Quo's sixties hits, band rejected pop image in favour of denim and developed famous heads down boogie style. Now lives in Australia.

RICK PARFITT: born 12/10/48 in Woking, Surrey. Met Rossi and Lancaster at Butlins 1965 summer season while both playing – Parfitt in cabaret trio The Highlights with two girls and Rossi and Lancaster in The Spectres. Eventually joined Quo in November 1967 while band were backing Madeleine Bell.

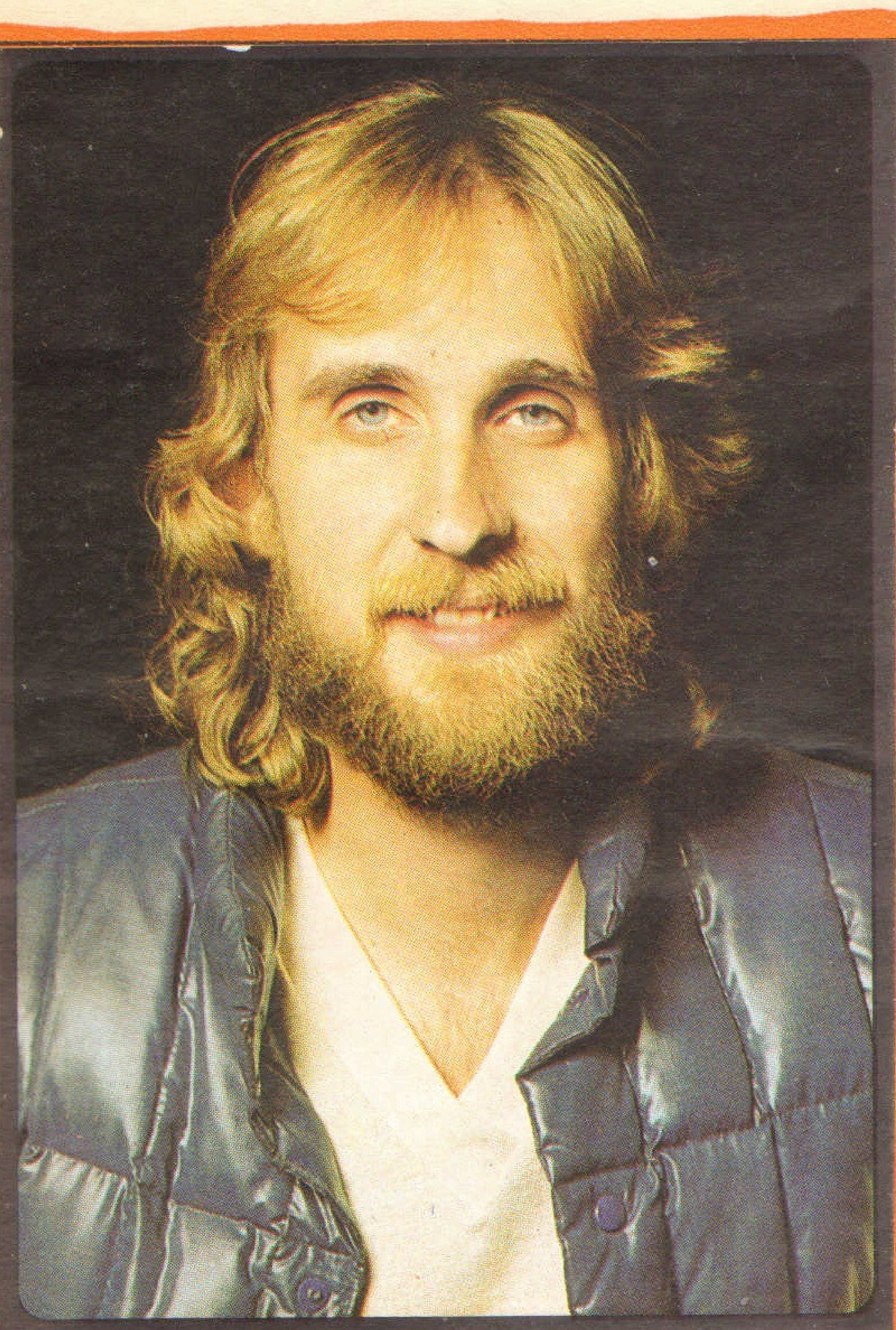
PETE KIRCHER: born 21/1/48 in Folkestone. Selected from over 400 applicants to replace original drummer John Coghlan when latter quit over arguments in studio on eve of Quo's twentieth anniversary in 1982. Formerly with Original Mirrors, joined only act to have had a Top 20 hit every year since 1973.





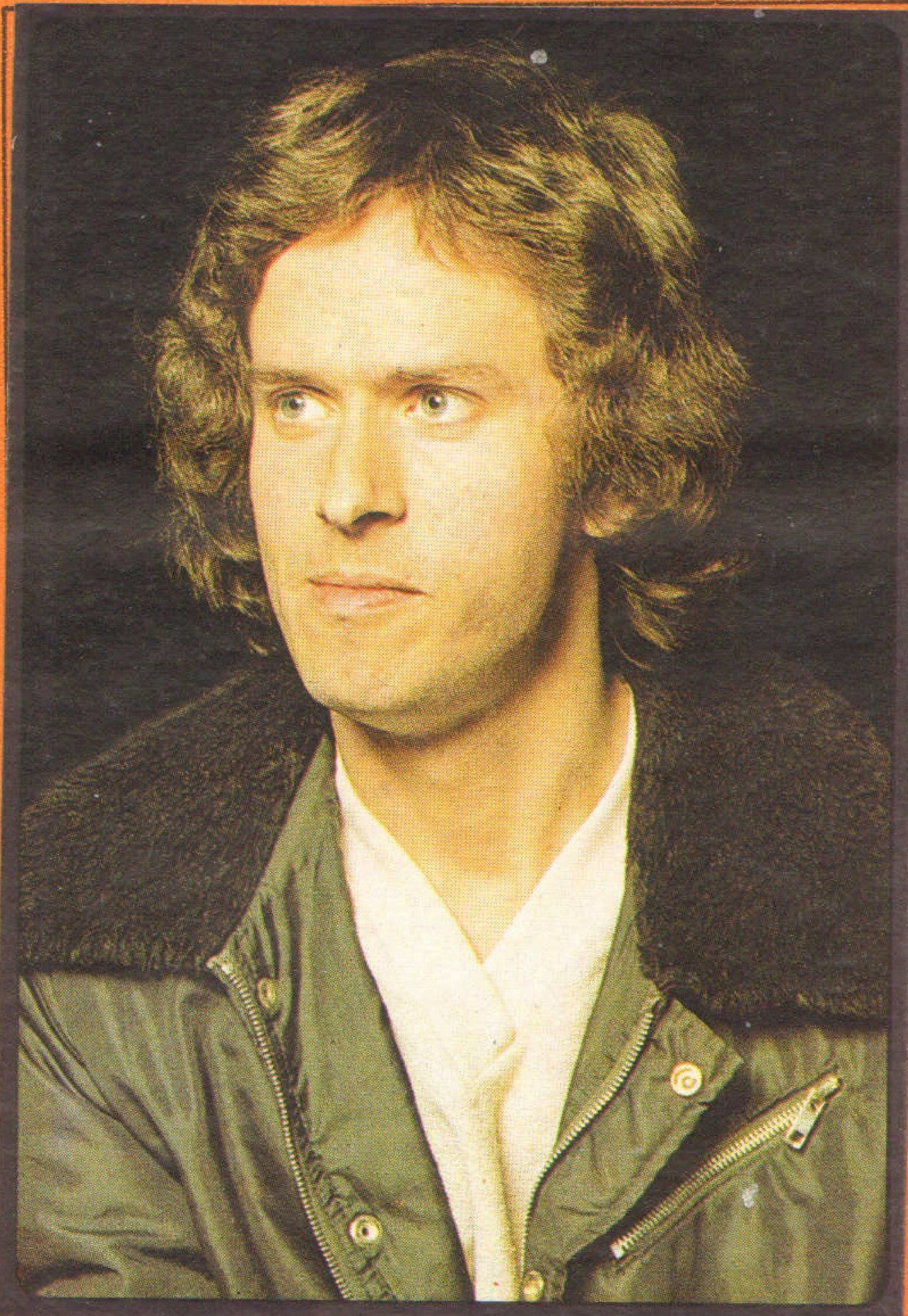


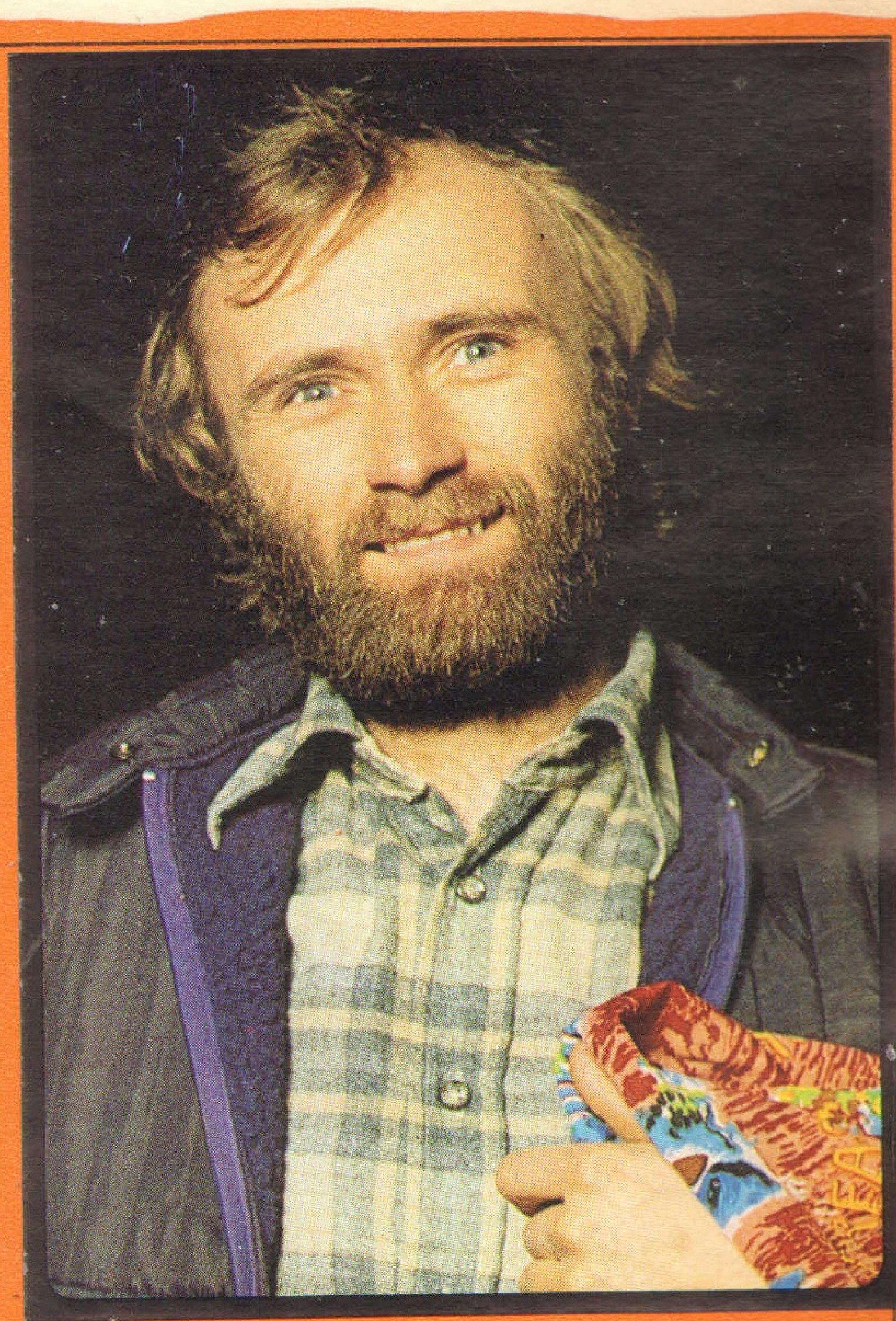
genesis



MIKE RUTHERFORD: born 2/10/50 in Guildford, Surrey. Guitar and bass player, was third to join Genesis after Tony Banks and Peter Gabriel while at Charterhouse public school. Band "discovered" by Jonathan King and released first album in 1969, averaging one per year thereafter. Also two solo LPs.

TONY BANKS: born 27/3/50 in East Hoathly, Surrey. Keyboard player, taking classical lessons from age 7. Discovered pop via radio. Longevity of band due to hard work, orientation towards songs rather than musicianship, and Phil Collins' ear for good tune. Three solo albums, including one soundtrack.





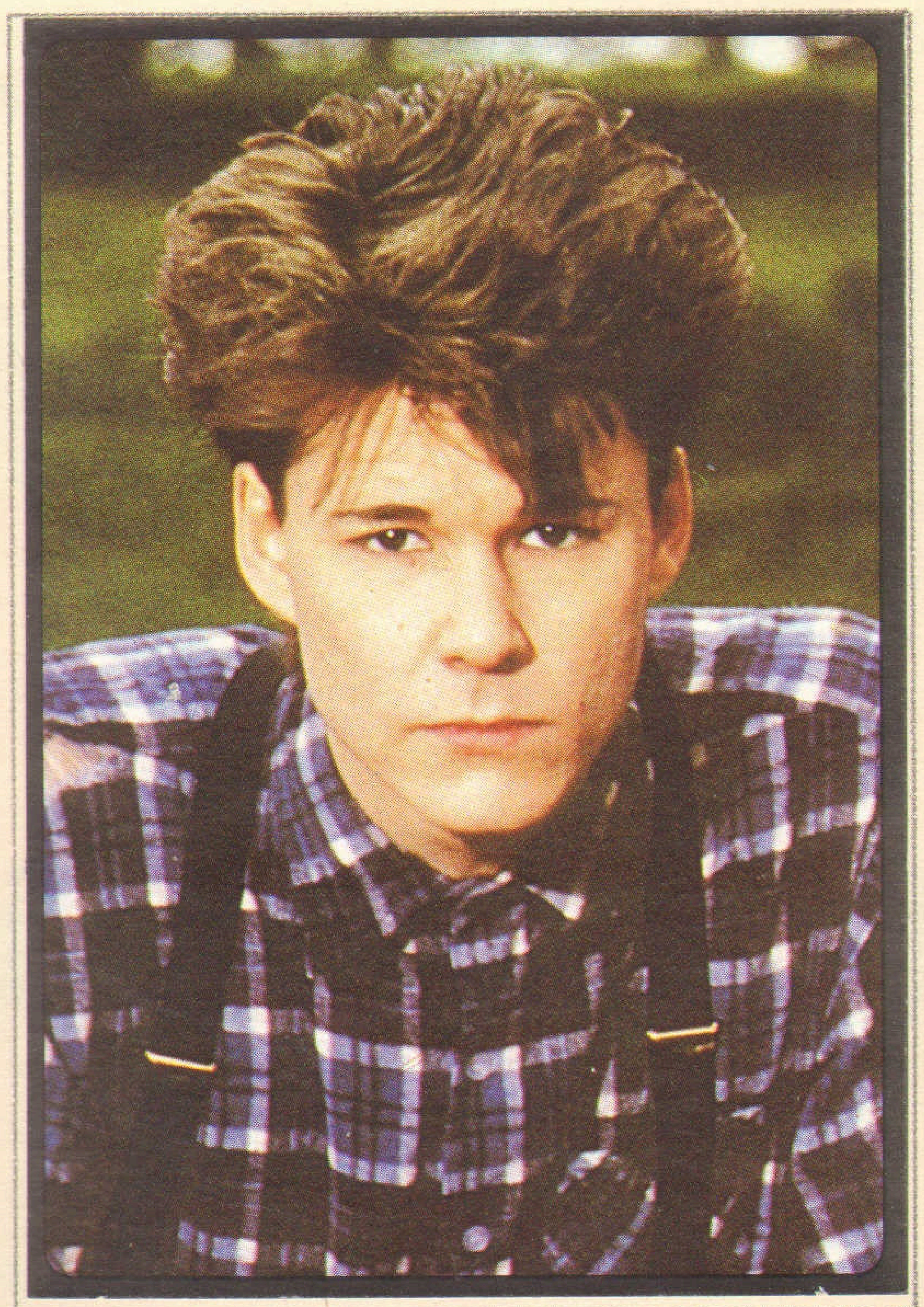
PHIL COLLINS: born 30/1/51 in West London. Educated at stage school, appeared as Artful Dodger in "Oliver" musical. Developed into excellent musician after joining Genesis via advert in 1970, even stepping into Gabriel's place to great effect in 1975. Also highly successful solo career, and now producer.

genesis

BRUCE WATSON: born 11/3/61 in Timmins, Ontario, Canada. Raised in Fife from early age. Guitarist, was first recruit into Big Country. Wrote songs with Stuart on tape recorder in community centre beneath local snooker hall. After disastrous start supporting Alice Cooper, band has gone from strength to strength.

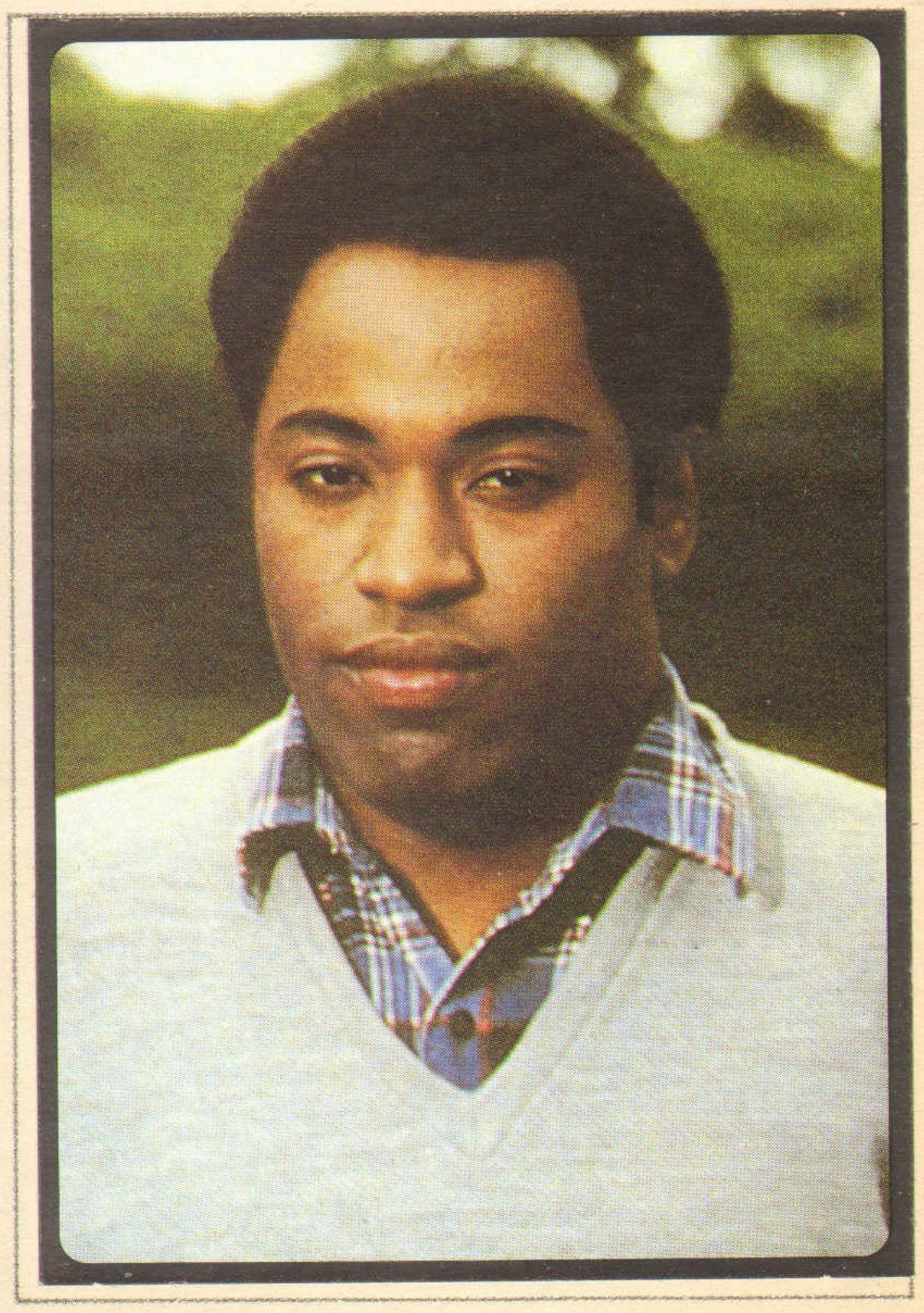
STUART ADAMSON: born 11/4/58 in Manchester but raised in Fife. Was, with Richard Jobson, creative core of The Skids until quit in Spring 1981. Rejecting quick cash-in job for integrity, is dedicated musician who hates pop star trip and creates spirited, stirring music. Married to Sandra, son Callum.





BIG COUNTRY





MARK BRZEZICKI: born 21/6/57 in Slough, Bucks. With bass player Tony Butler, was in group called On The Air who supported Skids on last tour. Then studio musicians, playing on Pete Townshend's solo LPs amongst other things. Together joined Big Country in 1982, transforming band with drive and skill.

TONY BUTLER: born 3/2/57 in West London. Studied musical theory. With drummer Mark Brzezicki, was in On The Air and then studio musician when called in to help with Big Country demos. Shared ideas, replaced original rhythm section and Big Country never looked back. Married to Jackie, son Alexander.

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